

*Borough of South Plainfield, NJ
Tuesday, April 22, 2025*

Chapter 17. Boards, Committees and Commissions

Article I. Environmental Advisory Committee

§ 17-1. Establishment.

It is hereby created and established an Environmental Advisory Committee for the Borough of South Plainfield.

§ 17-2. Membership; vacancies; liaison to Planning Board.

- A. The Environmental Advisory Committee shall consist of three to seven members, all of whom shall be residents of the Borough, appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Borough Council. Terms of office for all members shall be three years and until the appointment and qualification of their successors.
- B. The Mayor shall appoint one member for one year, one member for two years, and one member for three years. In case of the initial appointment of the Committee to more than three members, a fourth member shall be appointed for one year; a fifth member for two years; a sixth and seventh member for three years. The terms shall commence on January 1, 2024. Thereafter, the Mayor shall appoint or reappoint members for three-year terms.
- C. The Mayor may designate one of the members of the Planning Board to serve as a liaison between the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Planning Board.
[Amended 5-20-2024 by Ord. No. 2306]
- D. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee other than by expiration of a term, it shall be filled for the unexpired term. All members of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

§ 17-3. Functions.

The Committee is established to assist in the protection, development and use of natural resources, including water resources, located within the territorial limits of the Borough. In order to carry out these purposes, the Committee shall have the following functions:

- A. Promote conservation and development of the natural resources of the Borough by making recommendations to the appropriate Borough officials, boards and bodies.
- B. Plan implement and inform the public about local conservation programs.
- C. Research the use and possible use of open areas of the community and make recommendations to the Planning Board and/or Borough Council.
- D. Prepare and recommend to the Borough Council the printing and distribution of books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which it feels are necessary to further its environmental advocacy role.

- E. Act as the coordinating agency for the community on environmental matters, and a liaison between local environmental needs and regional, county, state and federal agencies administering to those needs.
- F. Compile and annually update an environmental resource inventory of land and water resources, which are both publically or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, in order to obtain information on the proper use of such areas.
- G. At the request of the Borough Administrator, review proposed and existing legislation and actions of regulatory agencies as they impact the environment and advise the Borough Council on such matters.

§ 17-4. Rules and regulations.

The Committee may recommend for adoption by the Borough Council suitable rules and regulations for the use of any such lands and the conduct of any persons while on or using same.

§ 17-5. Records and annual reports.

The Committee shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual report on or about December 1 of each year and submit the report the Borough Council, which report shall be comprehensive and detailed concerning the operations and activities of the Committee during the preceding year.

§ 17-6. Organization.

- A. The Committee shall conduct a reorganization meeting and shall hold an annual organizational meeting in January of each year.
- B. The Committee shall elect a chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary at its annual meeting and shall adopt a resolution establishing the dates, times and places of committee meetings for the year.
- C. The Committee is hereby authorized to adopt bylaws to govern its procedures.

§ 17-7. Green Team; Members.

[Added 5-20-2024 by Ord. No. 2306^[1]]

The Environmental Advisory Committee shall establish a Green Team and appoint members to develop plans, implement programs, and assist with educational opportunities that support the creation of a community sustainability program.

- A. The Green Team shall consist of the Mayor or his designee; the Borough Administrator; a Council liaison; a school board member appointed by the Board of Education; and up to two members of the Environmental Advisory Committee to be appointed by the Chairperson.
- B. The Chairperson may appoint with the advice and consent of the Committee advisory members which may include, but is not limited to, a Zoning Board or Planning Board member; a local business member; a Recreation Commission member; the Public Works Director or his designee; a youth representative; and up to two concerned citizens.
- C. The term of appointment for each Green Team member shall be for one year.
- D. The general purposes for the Green Team shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Management of South Plainfield participation in the Sustainable Jersey Program;
 - (2) Encouraging the Borough administration to pursue sustainable practices where possible and implement the environmental goals of the Mayor and Council;
 - (3) At the recommendation of the Mayor and Council, work with existing groups within the Borough whose actions affect environmental issues so as to eliminate duplication and insure that important tasks are completed;
 - (4) Provide suggestions to the Mayor and Council for further research and action in pursuit of the goals and functions of the Green Team;
 - (5) Provide advice and suggestions to the Planning Board and Zoning Board to assure that environmental issues are considered in the deliberations and actions if requested by the Mayor and Council;
 - (6) Upon obtaining approval of the Mayor and Council, solicit and evaluate environmental ideas and suggestions from the community; and
 - (7) Upon obtaining approval of the Mayor and Council, promote the causes of sustainability within the Borough.
- E. The Green Team shall meet at a designated time and place scheduled by the Chair of the Environmental Advisory Board or their designee at their discretion.
- [1] *Editor's Note: This ordinance also renumbered former §§ 17-7 through 17-57 as §§ 17-8 through 17-58, respectively.*

