



Environmental Commission

Minutes

15 April 2019

Present: Ken Miller (via telephone), Ed Komczyk, Carl Ford, Maureen Concordia, Eric Agren, Becky Headley and Miriam Reichenbach

Alt: Rich Rodack, Jodi Purvenis

Twp:

Public: Marilyn Quinn

Call to Order: Ed Komczyk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair is ill; he will join us via phone.

Secretary's Report: Approved as amended.

Public: nothing

Old Business:

Liaison: nothing. Rich asked about a follow-up on Sustainable NJ.

Chairperson's Report:

No new mail. Ken talked with DEP and Fish and wildlife about eagle camera. At ANJEC meeting Ken spoke with the mayor about single-use plastic, straws in particular. Perhaps the WDEC could investigate purchasing quantities of compostable paper bags/straws which we could distribute to local businesses. **We will discuss this again in May.** Sustainable NJ held a meeting at Riverwinds. Everyone was very impressed with the facility!

New Business:

Communication with Residents: Becky has distributed flyers for Earth Day. She is picking up the bags for stamping with our logo. LED bulb distribution is on target.

Rich told us Ken has the LED bulbs which we will pass out with seedlings. Carl has an explanation about advantages of the LEDs which we will include with our seedlings and planting information. We will put aside 50 seedlings for a young literacy program at the library that pairs with Arbor Day. Children attending the program will get a seedling to take home and plant. Any extra seedlings will go to the school, twp, etc for planting where appropriate.

Tree Identification: Eric told us that the wording for the signs should be ready soon.

Grants: Nothing now.

Planning Committee: Rich asked how do we know if the committee addresses our concerns? This question was followed by a lengthy discussion about the use of professionals on the Planning Board. Ken asked how we ensure that our questions and comments are listened to by the board. The WDEC concerns should be a part of the committee's official documentation. **A commission member asked that we include an explanation of the process (Eric) on our May agenda.** Rich's expertise and questions keep the Planning Board aware of our presence and concerns. Eric said the next meeting, 23 April, would include the issue of the Solvay solar panels. Rich asked about the self-storage area. Eric said the item is not on the upcoming agenda.

Financial Report: No change from last month, though we can expect the charge for the seedlings and the LED bulbs.

Public Comment: Marilyn Quinn was concerned that she couldn't access the ANJEC site. Also, single use plastics are an area of her concern. Additionally, she expressed some concerns about pollinator issues.

For the Good of the Order:

Jodi spoke of creating a garden at her school to attract bees, butterflies, etc as pollinators.

Miriam reminded the commission of the clean-up/replanting of the flower beds at the library on 27 April, from 9 to 12.

Adjourn:

At 8:10 Carl moved and Miriam seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Dates to Remember:

17 June, Commission meeting, 7:00 p.m., at Riverwinds