Environmental Commission

May 8, 2025 7:30pm – at Boro Hall and via Zoom

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance Mr. Yarin called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm

2. Attendance

Paul Yarin-present
Krishna Rege-present
Shelagh McCaffrey-present
Council Liaison Cho-present
Conway Wong-present

3. Approval of Minutes (April 10, 2025) Ms. Rege had corrections to make: the spelling of Flynne was not consistent. PAVA was also misspelled. The secretary was not able to hear who made the first or second, but they were made, and the minutes were approved.

4. Open Meeting to Public Comments A member of the public said that he was curious about what the Commission did and how he could help.

5. Executive & Treasurer's Report There was no impact to the budget made by Cleanup Day. All departments have been informed that there will be a 5% reduction to the budget. The Environmental Resources Inventory will be a large expense.

Mr. Yarin spoke about the Rutgers Environmental Stewardship Program he is taking. Forest ecology and managing native and invasive species are major topics, as is the deer population issue. As part of the program, he is required to complete a 60-hour project. He is considering creating a website indexing ERIs. Discussion. It is a requirement that someone pay for the project that is part of the Stewardship Program. The student is not allowed to pay for it.

The Sustainable Jersey Summit is tomorrow. Last year's summit was worth attending.

6. Unfinished Business The results of the Cleanup should be posted on the website. There were two sites; there was a big push to get people to clean the Nature Center. Ms. Rege suggested encouraging people to take pictures before and after. Volunteers mentioned that there were a lot of cigarette butts to be picked up. Is there any way to discourage people from leaving them around?

Flynne has been working on social media.

7. New Business

Mr. Yarin shared the Letter of Intent provided by Rutgers about the creation of the Natural Resources Inventory (aka Environmental Resources Inventory). He also shared two other companies that could create the document.

Beekeeping: Mr. Yarin shared that there are local ordinances concerning beekeeping. There was an effort to unify them in 2015. The Environmental Commission will look at the Closter Ordinance and try to streamline and update it. Afterward, the Commission can work to encourage people to raise them.

8. Plan Review and Comment Mr. Wong explained that the Environmental Commission can visit sites that are brought before the Planning Board in an effort to spot environmental issues and suggest better practices.

9. Liaison Reports
a. Governing Body Councilman Cho spoke about the budgeting process.

b. ~~Shade Tree Commission~~ (postponed pending new appointment)

c. ~~Planning Board~~ (postponed pending new appointment)

Discussion of the possibility of hosting farmers markets and educating the public about the importance of local foods for sustainability.

Ms. Rege moved to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:34.

10. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Francis
Recording Secretary