Environmental Commission

September 12, 2024 7:30pm via Zoom

Minutes

Paul Yarin opened the meeting at 7:33 pm with the Open Public Meetings announcement

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Attendance Present: Paul Yarin, Krishna Rege, Conway Wong, Councilman Chris Cho, Shelagh McCaffrey
Absent: Rachel Suter

3. Approval of Minutes (July 11, 2024) Ms. Rege moved to approve, second Mr. Wong. All in favor. Carried.

Ms. McCaffrey joined at 7:35 pm.

4. Open Meeting to Public Comments No public was present.

5. Executive & Treasurer's Report Mr. Yarin gave a review, and the Commission has money remaining.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Grants update: ANJEC Open Space Grants were received. An energy efficiency grant is still being decided. Heavy truck and fresh water grants are not being sought this year.

b. Electric landscaping demo 8/16 Kress demonstrated equipment at the Sustainable Jersey Conference. Mr. Yarin hopes that the DPW and some contractors will adopt this technology. He hopes to set up a demo in Closter soon.

c. Sustainable Gardening Fair update and planning: The Closter spring fair was rained out last week and will be held this Saturday. The Sustainable Gardening Fair will follow that. Ms. Rege, Ms. McCaffrey, and Ms. Suter did planning and public relations. Discussion of schedule. The ribbon cutting will be 1:15 due to the Mayor's schedule. Marc Gussen's talk will be at 12:30. Parking was also discussed. There will be musicians. There is a concern that the payment for composters may not be on the website in time. Ms. McCaffrey will try to reach the IT person, but he is at a convention. Discussion. Composters can be brought as demos. Other planning arrangements were made. Parking will be very limited

and will be limited in the future due to the closing of the swim club parking lot. There will be a food truck. The labels and plant signs have been placed in the garden. People should wear their EC vests at the event.
d. Drive Electric Week is coming up soon.

7. New Business

a. Trail maintenance Mr. Yarin tried to map the passive parks and shared his results. Marc Gussen (Closter Nature Center) asked if the EC wanted to hire him to maintain the trails. Discussion. The EC needs to determine which part the EC is responsible for.
b. Buzzoni Pollinator Garden – future maintenance; are any practices necessary or concerns arising now that it is open to the public? The sprinkler system will be useful. Perhaps volunteers will help. Discussion of what maintenance is needed.

8. Plan Review and Comment 680 Closter Dock Road will be on the October Planning Board agenda.

9. Liaison Reports

a. Governing Body The DPW bought 50 pickers. Councilman Cho is researching avenues for contacting the Target personnel in charge of the environment. New Jersey is launching a new tool for Brownfield sites.
b. ~~Shade Tree Commission~~ (postponed pending new appointment) Ms. McCaffrey will talk to her husband about updates, as he is on the Commission.
c. ~~Planning Board~~ (postponed pending new appointment) Councilman Cho will reach out to the Chair about nominating a Planning Board member to the Commission.

10. Adjournment Ms. Rege moved to adjourn, second Ms. McCaffrey. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Francis
Environmental Commission Secretary