

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022

7:00 PM

- I. Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act
- II. In attendance: Walter Deptuch, Celia Lane, Phil Maljevic, Brielle Olshan, Karin Rosenthal
- III. Old Business
 - A. Motion by Phil Maljevic to approve the March 8, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Celia Lane. Passed with two abstentions by Brielle Olshan and Walter Deptuch, who was not present for last month's meeting.
 - B. Event Update
 - 1. Earth Day Clean-up with the Mayor's Wellness Initiative
 - a) We help a cleanup on April 24 in partnership with the mayor's wellness initiative, which was very successful. There were a massive amount of disposable masks found.
 - B. Project status reports/review
 - 1. Update on grant funding opportunities
 - a) Claudia was not with us to give her update on grant funding opportunities. Brielle will connect with her in the coming days for an update.
 - b) We discussed the process by which projects are allotted to the town's new grant writer. We can just contact him (Annie has his contact information) with any projects. We may designate one or two people as contact person(s) to reach out to them and explain what we are looking for in terms of what we want grants for in particular (i.e. community garden, composting workshop, EV charging station, etc). They will tell us what is available, what the deadlines are, and what information they need from us to write the grant applications. They would then submit the grant application.
 - c) We need to get in touch with the EV charging station contact for a proposal for them in order to write a grant.
 - d) We've added a task on trello to reach out to the grant writer. Phil will spearhead this.
 - 2. Clear Cutting Ordinance
 - a) There is no update on this yet but we will return to this as a priority this month.
 - b) Phil proposed we submit the draft to the Mayor and Council now and take advantage of the town's interest in these topics now around Arbor Day. We will take one more look before doing so. Annie, Phil, Brielle, and Walter will meet with someone from the construction office to get some feedback before we submit it as well.

3. Tree recommendations for the development at the Broadway/Tappan intersection
 - a) We received a request from a representative of the developer of this property for suggestions about shade trees. Karin and Brielle met with them. THough they won't be native trees, the developers are planning to put in plenty of trees along the sidewalk and cul-de-sac. We will also ask that they plant a couple of trees along Tappan Road.

II. New Business

- A. Brielle is participating in a New Jersey Forest Task Force and invited other NEC members to participate as well. They will be discussing matters of public forests, reading scholarly articles, hearing from experts, and coming together to give a report at the end with policy recommendations. Brielle will send out the information.
- B. Community Garden Discussion
 1. Karin and Brielle have been working on this project. They've put together a plan for the garden. We are trying to balance individuals who want to garden with individuals who would not personally like to garden. THEir will be individual plots that people can reserve, as well as a section which is more open to the community to garden and harvest from, which will include flowers for pollinators
 2. This will replace the garden next to the library parking lot, and the area has been expanded.
 3. Brielle, Annie, and Karin will meet tomorrow to finalize the plan, and then we will begin advertising the project and the opening date (TBD), so that people know this project is for everyone in Norwood, not just the EC.
 4. We will also need to discuss the process of applying for a plot.
 5. We will also gather a list of interested parties.
 6. We will also organize an opening event and advertise in the newspaper once all the details are finalized.
 7. We may also consider a sign out front with the logo stating that all are welcome and with information about how to reserve a plot.

III. Public Comment

- A. Motion by Walter Deptuch to open to the public. Seconded by Phil Maljevic. Unanimously passed.
- A. No comment.
- B. Motion by Walter Deptuch to close to the public. Seconded by Phil Maljevic. Unanimously passed.

- IV. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Motion by Phil Maljevic to adjourn. Seconded by Karin osenthal. Unanimously passed.