

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2018

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order on July 10, 2018 by Commission Chairman Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance (17)

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wieczorek (chair)
Deana Gunn (Council Chair)
Jim Tobias
Larry McGee
Anthony Washington
Meredith Comi

Associate Members

Adam Fernandez
Michele Devanny

b. Absent

Ginny Sanzo
Sharen LaPorta

Ken Ramsey
Malini Guha

c. Guests

Arlan Feiles
Dayna Ramsay
Hans Kernasa
Paul Rinear
Diane Doolittle

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

No Approval – Corrections Needed

III. Guest Speakers:

None

IV. Member and Guest Reports on Affiliate Organizations

a. Aberdeen Environmental Advisory Board (Dan)

i. No report

b. Matawan Shade Tree (Larry)

i. On target to be Tree City by September 2018

ii. Benefits of being a Tree City - town becomes eligible for grant money; appealing to realtors and home buyers

iii. No number of trees planted/year needed

c. Planning Board (Sharon)

i. No report

d. Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (Meredith)

i. No report

e. Monmouth County Environmental Council (pending)

i. No Report

- f. Matawan Town Council (Deana)
 - i. National Night out is August 7th - cosponsored by Matawan Recreation Department and Matawan Police Department; Terhune Park from 6:30pm to 8:30pm; Super Hero movie will be shown; partnering with the Geekery; food trucks

V. Reports on Special Events/Meetings Attended

- i. Sustainable Jersey (Dan) – see Progress Reports on Active Projects below

VI. Progress Reports on Active Projects

- a. Lefferts Waterfront Cleanup/Expansion/Nature Trail
 - i. No update
- b. Lefferts Kayak Tours – (Happening!)
 - i. Matawan Recreation Department and NY/NJ Baykeeper will be running free, 1 hour kayak tours on Lake Lefferts this season. They will be led by Joe Reynolds.
 - ii. 2 Dates with 4 Time slots each day:
 - 1. Saturday, July 21st AND Saturday August 25th
 - a. 9am-10am
 - b. 11am-12pm
 - c. 1pm-2pm
 - d. 3pm-4pm
- c. Signs Marking our Watershed (Meredith)
 - i. Continued discussion on how best to create and locate signs – it was suggested that a list of signs needed/wanted be created and to use HS students (design class, shop class, etc.) and Eagle Scout and Girl Scouts to make them. Attach signs to ones that are already in place?
- d. Community Garden (Dan, Jim, Larry & Anthony)
 - i. No update
- e. Rain Garden
 - i. Examples of rain garden plans were distributed and reviewed. Discussion on suitability of Terhune Park as location of rain garden. Discussed challenges such as permission from town, permits, logistics (size, construction, etc.), and if the area is wet after a heavy rain.
 - ii. Anthony will check out site after a heavy rain
 - iii. Committee created – Meredith, Anthony, Deana, Dan, Michele
 - iv. Meredith will do further research and provide details at August meeting
 - v. Contact Chris Obupta and Rutgers
- f. Tree City USA (Larry)
 - i. By September, Matawan should be a Tree City USA town!
- g. Sustainable Jersey Meeting (Dan)
 - i. NJ Energy Aggregation- like Sustainability Alliance; six towns came together and bought sustainable power for residents to offer more than one option for power; Mayor of Maplewood (?); more residents involved, more clout

- ii. Steps to become an aggregation: ordinance, resolution, contract consultant, public education, switch providers
- iii. Residents can still opt out and stick with traditional power
- iv. Resolution to stay in Paris Agreement to reduce carbon emissions
- v. Green Team – to get points for Sustainable Jersey a town must have a Green Team; members can include mayors, borough administrators, educators, etc.; towns can combine
- vi. Sustainable Jersey grants: two funding cycles a year – energy grants due end of Oct; general grants due end of Feb.
- vii. Can still apply for funding if participating in a Green Team, but not yet certified
- viii. Example funding asks-Energy: energy efficient projects like windows and solar power; general: Green Team support, community garden, plastic reduction campaign, Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), outreach
- h. Solar Power for Matawan Borough and School System (pending)
 - i. Matawan Borough has signed a deal for solar power
 - ii. School system is still pending – the schools have a large amount of flat roof space which is perfect for solar panel installation
 - iii. Continued discussion of purchase vs. leasing
- i. Natural Resource Inventory (Adam)
 - i. Adam will submit an Open Public Records Request for any old NRI's from previous Matawan Environmental Commissions or from the state

VII. New Business

- a. Upcoming Meetings and Project Suggestions
 - i. None

VIII. Open Floor (General Discussions)

- Plastic Bag Bill (Paul) - Discussion on the Plastic Bag bill that is currently up for vote, that if passed will roll back past ordinances. Matawan Environmental Commission (MEC) can use ANJAC letter as template for a letter to Murphy regarding ban of bag bill. New state law will take away municipalities right to ban plastics. Council should submit letter as well as MEC
- Matawan Day (Deana) – Sat. October 13, 2018; Rain Date Sun. Oct. 14. MEC will have a display on single use plastics and target establishments and residents at the same time. Baykeeper can lend table, information and displays on plastics. Will Baykeeper sponsor a table?
- Grace was appointed as contact for Sustainable Jersey in 2015. MEC will apply to be borough agent
- Lake Lefferts herbicide treatment – Town asked MEC for recommendations and concerns of current treatment plan. A list of recommendations and questions for the town was discussed. Dan will email final draft to Lou (Borough Administrator) and copy Deana. Final document will be posted on Google drive. Dan circulated past reports on herbicide treatment for MEC members to review.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Daniel Wiczorek. The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on August 14, 2018, at the Matawan Municipal Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meredith Comi