

Matawan Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Matawan Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:12 pm on June 8, 2021 by Commission Chair Daniel Wieczorek.

I. Meeting Attendance

a. Present

Commission Members

Daniel Wieczorek (chair)
Ginny Sanzo
Adam Fernandez
Meredith Comi
Malini Guha

Associate Members

Diane Doolittle

b. Absent

Anthony Washington
Sharen LaPorta
John Lazar – Council Chair

Michele Devanny
Dan Carroll

c. Guests None

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2021 - APPROVED

III. NRI/Budget Status/Update

- a. NRI to remain top priority of the Environmental Commission. The NRI has been top priority since the commission's re-inception in 2018. The commission will continue to emphasize the importance and value of the NRI as a tool for the town as a whole, not just for the Environmental Commission
- b. The Commission is considering submitting information packets to each Council Member, designed to address the importance of the NRI to the town and to actively consider it as part of the budget. The NRI is not an Environmental Commission initiative, it is an initiative for the town as a whole.

IV. Community Clean-up

- a. Successful, large attendance, most tonnage collected thus far
- b. Two separate starting points was not efficient and the Commission advises keeping it at only one starting point for all future events.
- c. A significant amount of positive feedback has been received from the Matawan community
- d. The Commission is considering a different start point for next year, remains in discussion

V. Community Garden

- a. The Commission is seeking a volunteer to take lead in the Community Garden research and potential development.
- b. A helpful resource and reference is the Marlboro Community Garden.
 - Weblink: <https://www.marlboro-nj.gov/community-garden>

VI. Membership and Attendance

- a. Discussion of addressing attendance challenges
- b. Discussion of the requirement to attend a minimum of 9 meetings
- c. Evaluation of current terms and expirations
- d. Discussion of Shade Tree Commission, inclusion in the building of the Green Team

VII. Green Team

- a. Further Green Team Development is secondary to the NRI
- b. Discussion of Shade Tree Commission and inclusion in the building of the Green Team

VIII. Reports on Affiliate Organizations

- a. Matawan Town Council (John)
 - No report
- b. Planning Board (Sharen)
 - No report
- c. Food and Water Watch (Malini)
 - Government Energy Aggregation / Community Choice Aggregation /Energy Choice Aggregation: towns can buy energy in bulk, residents can opt out if they want, towns are trying to get more renewable energy sources amongst their supply. Works towards lower cost and get a cleaner energy content
 - Malini to head up gathering more information on getting Matawan on board and putting together a packet for the town council to consider

IX. Open Floor

- a. Review of signs marking our watershed, Matawan is currently part of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary – Meredith will follow up

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm by Commission Chair Daniel Wiczorek. The next general meeting will be held at 7:00pm on July 13, 2021 - **LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED**

IF virtual:

Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/yyu-gnat-azt>