

Madison Environmental Committee (MEC) meeting 6/24/21

In attendance: Members Claire Whitcomb (Chair), Kirsten Wallenstein, Joan Maccari, Bridget Daley, Ann Huber, Trina Mallik, John Hoover (Council Liaison).

Guests: Lisa Jordan, Meredith Jones, and Charlie Schacter (Morris Township EC).

Joan -- Milkweed giveaway at Farmer's Market on 6/10/21

- 80 seedlings of different varieties
- 2/3 of those who reserved picked up, the rest were walk-ups
- Received many compliments on the 6/2 Beekeeper/Pollinator Plants educational webinar
- There are 350–400 native bee species in NJ (honeybees are not native). Gardening for bees in general is good for pollinators

Kirsten -- Eco Scavenger Hunt

- Small participation, recommends to integrate more with the schools in the future
- Riddles were written by HS students, but the kids who wanted to participate were younger so the riddles were too complicated for them

Charlie Schachter -- Morris Twp EC

- Guest

Trina -- Multi-town meeting, Climate Action Working Group

- North Jersey Sustainable Municipal Alliance representative was there
- Peter Fried's most recent column for Madison Eagle / Recorder Media Group written by a high school student in Chatham + Rozella Clyde, one of Torie Wie's students
- Working on a municipal climate action resolution template, on track to be done by fall
- Strategic plan: Town has a long-term strategic plan, guides municipal budgeting. Process has begun to think about how do we insert our town's climate action priorities in that plan -- recommendation from Mayor Conley. Covers budget, capital, business, etc.

Site plan deep dive webinar with Morris Twp. EC

- Ann:
 - There are existing charts in stormwater management regulations that are helpful
 - Maintenance is key -- next step is Engineering dept. or perhaps Mayor Conley
- Pervious coverage is high maintenance and complex to understand
 - Can't be salted the first year, for example
- Needs to be a discussion with Bob Vogel

Wayfinding meetings

- Contractor to create wayfinding system (Merge)
- Boro met with various committees for input. Kristen brought up signage for bike paths, pollinator gardens, open space
- Email Lisa Ellis with input

- Contractor will come back with 3 design concepts
- John Hoover: Hope is to streamline process, replace some signs

Site plans

- Madison Market: Needs a use variance because they want a liquor license & they want a sign. They think their waste will go down. Will also offer a glass bottle recycling bin. Claire will go to that meeting to raise idea of composting. Suggest that they add solar panels & EV charging stations
- Site plan process: Ray Codey & John H arranged a meeting Claire participated in. Issue is not enough lead time for site plan review. Ideally should include site plan visits. Digital site plans would be helpful, would need to be held in a private section of Rosenet. Moving EC meeting to 3rd Thursday will provide more time to review before Planning Board Completeness Coordinating Committee
- Motion to move meeting to 3rd Thursday, starting November 2021:
 - Votes in favor: Joan, Claire, Bridget, Ann, Trina, John Hoover
- Energy Sources Costs Mix -- whether renewable or not.
- Sustainable Gardens Tour
 - Need to nail down a date -- any conflicts in early Sept.
 - Kirsten suggests inviting landscapers to the tour
- Kristen: Brought up who recommends what trees to plant when someone builds a deck?
 - Limbaugh (tree/landscaping co.) is on planning board, Ann would like to see their recommendations
- Movement to adjourn: Claire
 - Votes in favor: Joan, Claire, Bridget, Ann, Trina