

Madison Environmental Commission Meeting

Minutes for July 22nd 2021

Attendees: Claire Whitcomb, Bridget Daley, Joan Maccari, Brian Monahan, Kirsten Wallenstein, John Hoover as Borough Liaison

Guests: Meredith Jones

- Preliminary environmental checklist is on Rosenet:
<https://www.rosenet.org/DocumentCenter/View/1571/Environmental-Checklist-PDF> .
The list covers things like solar ready buildings, EV charging station, irrigation, invasive plants. Filed with the original papers We should report this information out to community. The checklist has improved the site plan review process.
- Rain Garden weeding was successful. A follow up weeding event will be scheduled with the GSWA.
- A few MEC members are meeting with Jim Burnett to understand the process for purchasing electricity. This is an educational meeting for environmental teams to understand the process.
- A textile recycling bin is coming soon to a location at the DPW. Ken O'Brien to get photos once the bin is delivered. The bin accepts clothing that is reusable or recycled into insulation.
- The Compost Hub is up at the DPW. Cost is 20 Monthly for 2 buckets of waste. We should explore possible zero waste events.
- Bridget reported on the Eco Garden Tour will be at various locations in Madison on September 12th. Confirming participants and addresses will be shared with registrants prior to dat. Gibbons Pines and Drew Campus will be included as locations. Will try to have tables by Native Plant groups, butterfly associations, sustainable landscapers
- Brian reported on the Shade Tree audit which showed the town trees are in good quality. There are approximately 100 - 140 trees. Residents are very supportive of the town tree program.
- Ellen Reports: The Advocates for Transforming Landscaping Working Group has been busy exploring issues and hearing from stakeholders involved in maintaining lawns and yards during spring, summer and fall. There is interest in creating and supporting more sustainable methods to manage outdoor spaces. This includes education in the form of one-on-one discussions, green lawn care expos and written educational material. One thing interested residents can do right now, in the summer, is to avoid using a blower to clear grass clippings or small debris from their driveways and curbs. Clippings can be left and will naturally dissipate. Limiting blowing helps support cleaner air and native habitats.

MEC Minutes continued

- Summit has moratorium on leaf blowing in the summer.
- The Community Garden is thriving.
- Pickle Ball discussion underway with town to discuss a new location for the courts
- We need to share information and signage to help manage spread of the Spotted Lantern fly

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.