

LEC 1/25/17 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jane Rosenblatt, Gina Fischetti, Jean Millman, Kyle Strumfels, Lauren McManus, Kelly Kappler, Dave DelVecchio

Nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary in 2017:

Lauren McManus – Vice Chair

Jean Millman – Secretary (will take notes, Lauren will type minutes)

Third Can Update:

Currently, there are 180 residential and 5 restaurant participants in the Third Can Program. Mayor DelVecchio informed the Commission about City plans to expand the program to 250 residential and 10 restaurant participants in 2017. He also asked us to begin writing an ordinance to mandate Lambertville restaurants that receive public waste pick-up to participate in Third Can. Before the ordinance is written or approved, the LEC will work to increase voluntary restaurant participation. Some ideas about how to effectively reach restaurant owners:

1. Ask each current participating restaurant to “buddy” with a non-participating restaurant, explaining the value (savings) and helping them to get set up.
2. Create an incentive for voluntarily signing on before the ordinance goes into effect, such as a reduced fee for cans.
3. LEC members going “door-to-door” soliciting restaurant owners to participate.

Lester is working on a report with financial information and projections for future budget and waste reduction. Lauren will follow-up with Lester; the LEC will use his report to determine how to proceed with funding and marketing expansion efforts.

The Sustainable Jersey Report was submitted, and all funds from the grant have been allocated.

2017 Meeting Schedule:

We will continue to hold meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm, except for November when we will meet on the 5th Wednesday (Nov. 29).

No meetings in December or August.

Shad Fest Update:

Lauren and Jane corresponded with David Morgan from the Chamber of Commerce about greening Shad Fest. This year (Shad Fest will take place on April 29 and 30), the Chamber agreed to the following:

1. The LEC will have a free table at Shad Fest.
2. Food vendors will be given Third Can supplies to compost their food waste during the event.

3. The Chamber will send information to all food vendors about using biodegradable containers. Jean has a list of suppliers that we will share with the Chamber to help them with their messaging.

Kyle is working on securing a water station to help reduce plastic water bottle consumption. He will follow up on progress at the next meeting.

Shad Fest Sub-committee: Kyle Strumfels, Gina Fischetti, Lauren McManus

Action items:

1. create schedule for volunteers at LEC table
2. Jane will share AmeriCorps contact to get watershed model / volunteer(s)
3. hand-outs / educational materials / temporary tattoos or buttons?
4. correspond with Lester re: implementation of Third Can for food vendors
5. water station

Emerald Ash Borers:

Kelly Kappler, member of the Woodcrest Homeowner's Association presented data about Emerald Ash Borers, which have not yet officially been found in Lambertville. They were found in Mercer County in 2015, in West Amwell in 2016, and are expected to reach Lambertville this year if they have not already. These insects, an invasive species from Asia, kill Ash trees within approx. 8 years of contact.

The Woodcrest community has 88 housing units and sits on approx. 4-5 acres of land. Kelly worked with another homeowner to take an inventory of ash trees on the property and counted 400, which comprise somewhere between 40 – 50% of the total trees in the community. The Homeowner's Association is concerned about the effects of Emerald Ash Borers on these trees and are considering prevention methods.

Possible approaches to protect trees:

1. Apply pesticide (internal injection, does not run off into water) to individual trees. The cost is about \$150 - \$300/tree every other year.
2. Introduce healthy pest species (this only works in large, uninterrupted forest areas, so it is most likely NOT applicable in this area)

Kelly asked if the City is aware of this issue and if it has a plan for how to deal with it. She also asked if there is a way that the City can partner with the Woodcrest community to finance preventative measures.

Jane recommended that Kelly get in touch with Emily Goldman, Chair of the Shade Tree Commission. There is also a Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission and a State Shade Tree Commission that might be resources for information and partnership.

Gina also suggested that the LEC reach out to these commissions to give an educational presentation in Lambertville to raise awareness.

Kyle mentioned that the Shade Tree Commission is tasked with maintaining an inventory of all trees in the City of Lambertville, and suggested that we request this document to assess the city-wide risks of Emerald Ash Borers.

The LEC (Gina) will revisit the recent Tree Ordinance that has not yet been approved to make sure that there are provisions for blighted trees and infestations.

The LEC will also find out if there is an arborist that works for / with the City who might be able to help with prevention efforts.

The LEC will make this an ongoing agenda item so that progress is made on this issue.

Pipeline Committee Update:

Lauren, Gina and Kelly related several key points from the Pipeline Committee's most recent (1/25/17) meeting, including:

1. The Final EIS has been pushed back from Feb 17 to April 7, 2017. This is the 3rd delay, which signals a red flag.
2. Upcoming meetings in the community – HALT Penn East, Delaware Riverkeeper webinar, DRBC meeting
3. The Pipeline Committee is planning a community meeting at the Justice Center to be held the week of April 17 to inform residents about next steps. They are working to secure a representative from the NJ Rate Counsel to participate in the discussion.

Planning Board Update:

Jane, can you help with this? The meeting was winding down at this point and I can't remember if there was any relevant discussion to include in these minutes.

Other Business:

Lauren briefly mentioned ANJEC Open Space Grant – please put on next meeting agenda