

## **LEC – April 26, 2017 Meeting**

In attendance: Mary Anne Borge, Lauren Kovacs, Matthew Nogier, Jean Milman, Franta Broulik, Gina Fischetti, Jane Rosenblatt, Lauren McManus, Kelly Kappler

### **National Wildlife Federation Habitat Community Program –**

Mary Anne Borge (educator at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve), Lauren Kovacs, and Franta Broulik (Lambertville Public Library) presented a proposal to partner with the city on their project to certify Lambertville with the NWF’s Garden for Wildlife

Their project, “Lambertville Goes Wild!” aims to enhance Lambertville’s natural environment through community education and engagement in promoting wildlife habitat throughout the city.

What’s in it for Lambertville?

- Earn points for Sustainable Jersey qualification
- Generate good publicity
- Save money & time through sustainable practices
- Provide a healthier environment for people
- Increase habitat for birds, butterflies, and other critters
- Improve flood defense

They are asking the city for:

- Letter of support
- Use of the Justice Center for public presentations
- One-time application fee of \$159, representation on the Environmental Commission
- Partnership with Public Works to maintain any city “habitats” that may currently exist or be developed through the program
- Joint promotional efforts
- Permission to use a public space (i.e. Cherry Street lot) for a native plant sale

Some possible programming ideas they shared:

- Partner with Kalmia Club for certified resident garden tour
- Public map of certified properties
- Partnering with Summer Reading Program at the Library to get kids on board
- Partnering with Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve to create a pocket habitat in one of the public spaces in town

Some concerns were raised about how to create a certified habitat in a semi-urban environment. Imagery / examples of resident gardens for wildlife were requested.

The LEC agreed to support this effort. As a first step, Jane will send an email to Mayor DelVecchio to solicit letter of support from the City.

### **Emerald Ash Borer**

Mary Anne Borge & Kelly Kappler live in the Woodcrest community. All of the hillside communities in and around Lambertville are at risk of significant tree loss (40 – 50%) from the Emerald Ash Borer. They are seeking the City’s help in prevention / remediation efforts.

Mary Anne mentioned that Lambertville might be eligible for grant funding from the Forest Service if it has a community forestry management plan in “approved” status. Cary Sargent with the Forest Service is the contact for more information.

The LEC is unsure about whether the City Council is aware of the Emerald Ash Borer issue. Jane will send email to City Council re: Emerald Ash Borer upon receipt of more information from Mary Ann Borge (including Forest Service cost analysis worksheet and synopsis of the problem )

### **Tree Ordinance**

Gina distributed hard copies of the most recent edits to this ordinance. She had two noteworthy comments:

1. Section 7/ F – Homeowners should be able to plant replacement trees themselves
2. Section 7/G – Who will monitor replanted trees for their first year? The ordinance needs to set guidelines.

The LEC will look over the ordinance and send comments to Gina. We will discuss any concerns / changes at our next meeting.

### **Shad Fest**

Volunteer Sign-ups:

10 – 12:30 SET UP / Lauren, Jane, Jean

12:30 – 2:30 / Jean, Kyle, Jane

2:30 – 4:30 / Lauren, Gina

4:30 – 6:30 / Lauren, Kyle

- Lauren – Table, get folding chairs from Gina, brochures for River Friendly resident program, pens, Recycling posters
- Jane – Enviroscene, Third Can materials (flyers, sign-up sheet, can, tattoos?)
- Lauren will call Lester regarding Third Can management in the food court area
- Lauren will email Kirsten Pehinys from the Shade Tree Commission to make sure she has all the information she needs for Sunday
- Lauren, Jane, & Gina will meet on Friday evening to pull together last-minute table details

### **Third Can**

The group discussed concerns about reaching out to restaurants before the city ordinance requiring restaurants with city pick-up to participate is introduced. Jane will ask the Mayor to push this agenda item back so that there is more time to notify the restaurants about the ordinance and the meeting. Everyone at the meeting agreed to notify restaurant contacts within the next 2 weeks.

All agreed that the new ordinance should include a clause requiring ALL food-related events using city trash pick-up (i.e. Shad Fest) to incorporate Third Can into their logistics.

### **Earth Day Film Program**

- 25 – 30 attendees
- New connection with the Stony Brook – Millstone Watershed association
- Lauren expressed interest in developing future environmentally-focused film programs in partnership with the ACME

### **Pipeline Committee Report**

- May 2, 7pm - Special Session of City Council to focus on the status of the Pipeline
- Army Corps of Engineers rejected permits for being incomplete
- Suez seems to be paying a bit more attention to the issue of the Dam and realizing that encroachment and runoff is an inevitable consequence. Representative(s) will be speaking at the May 2 City Council Meeting