

City of Lambertville
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
7:30 P.M., Wednesday, January 29, 2020
CITY HALL, 18 YORK STREET
MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order and statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act
2. Roll Call

- Mark Donlon
- Dann Connelly
- Gina Fischetti
- Cyndy Jahn
- Kate Millsaps
- Kelly Kappler
- Liz Peer

3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from October were approved. Cyndy and Kate abstained.

Minutes from December were approved. Mark and Kelly abstained.

5. Mayor Fahl

- State of the City speech is being held on Friday, January 31st and all are encouraged to attend to learn more about several new policy initiatives.
- Community Development Fair: Following on the announcements made at the State of the City, on Saturday, February 1, 2020, residents can connect with staff to discuss upcoming priorities and policy changes in the City. Issues to be discussed include affordable housing, municipal facilities, debt load and the structural deficit. This includes a new apartment building on the north end of town to provide affordable housing and a consolidation of current municipal buildings through the development of a new facility.
Sustainability measures will be included in the new plans including a partnership with Clean New Jersey to retrofit homes and looking at sustainable building practices for the new City facility.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Old Business

a. Sustainable Jersey:

- Ditching disposables midterm grant report due on Friday. Liz and Kelly working on the report.
- Need to work on the recertification process. The EC has a grant to bring on a consultant to help us prepare for and go through the process.

b. Sub-committees

c. Planning Board

- Liz pursuing conversation with Board on having EC involvement in application review at the completeness determination stage.

d. Pesticides

- Subcommittee holding a meeting next week to discuss next steps
- Mayor Fahl and Councilman Sanders meeting with state Senator Bob Smith on this issue, as a sponsor of statewide legislation.

e. PennEast

- PennEast has submitted a request for an extension with FERC as the pipeline was supposed to be operational by December 2020. The City submitted a letter of opposition to the extension. FERC is scheduling a meeting to consider this extension request.

f. Trex – Mark

- Many residents participating. Over a thousand pounds of plastic film collected at this point. 8-10 volunteers helping the program.

- Challenges:
 - contamination still occurring.
 - Working on end point for bags. Currently they are being stored at DPW. Giant and McCafferty's have a Trex program so Mark is working to see if they will accept bulk film from the City.
- ESMG is a recycling consultant based in Wall that can help with sourcing places to take waste/ recycling and develop programs to ensure products get to where they are supposed to and education program

g. Ditching Disposables

- The EC is working with our consultant to develop a survey on implementation of the campaign. Survey needs to go out in the Spring.
- For 2020, the EC will divide the remaining portions of the action plan into subcommittees/working groups.
- **Plastic Ordinance info sessions committee:**
 - Planning is in progress for an evening education session for the public and businesses. Date pending on Justice Center availability; being finalized by Liz.
 - Liz is developing a poster for businesses with our graphic designer on the ordinance requirements and compliance.
 - Liz, Kelly and Cyndy will be on the subcommittee
- **Sustainable Business Awards**
 - River Signs offers a compressed paper award product, called Rich Light. The EC would like to use this for the 4 sustainable business awards. Subcommittee members will follow up with River Signs for a quote.
 - The EC needs to give out 3 more awards before October. Subcommittee members will develop the format for the next 3 awards. Potential ideas discussed include:

- Sustainable/locally sourced dish competition in summer for restaurants
 - Linking with priorities in the green business certification process standards, such most energy efficient businesses, etc.
- Subcommittee: Gina, Kate and Dann
- **Green Business Certification**
 - DEP has a Sustainable Business Registry; to be listed you have to be reviewed by the DEP. This process could serve as a template or listing on the Registry could be used as a criteria for the City's green business certification.
 - Jersey City has a certification process that could also be used as a model
 - Liz, Kelly, Cyndy will serve on the subcommittee
- **Sustainability Storytime**
 - One story time at the library in April.
 - The grant includes a \$100 budget to purchase children's sustainability books for the library. Subcommittee members will work with children's librarian to identify books to purchase.
 - Dann and Kate will serve on subcommittee.
 - Gina noted sourcing used books could further promote sustainability goal.
 - Mayor Fahl noted the City is developing plans for little libraries plans throughout the City and grant money could potentially be used to supply sustainability books at these locations.
 - Subcommittee can propose a budget for additional uses

h. LGW- Deb Vari

- April 4th is the Earth Day event: Presentation and tree seedling giveaway at Acme. Tree planting at Cherry St Park afterwards.

- LGW is working to develop an education campaign on environmentally friendly practices for yard waste.
- Mayor Fahl noted there was a capital improvement request to remove trees and create a recreation path on the hill behind Ely Field for \$1 million.

i. Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

- The City last updated the ERI in 2007. According to ordinance, the LEC is responsible for updating the document.
- The EC would like to address this in 2021. Later this year can look at grant opportunities from Sustainable Jersey, ANJEC, or others to secure professionals to help with this process.

8. New Business

a. 2020 Meeting Date Approval

LEC voted to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2020.

b. Frenchtown Green Fair

March 26th at 6:30- LEC member invited to discuss the Ditching Disposables campaign. Dann is a maybe.

9. Announcements

- State of City and Community Development Fair Day reminder (discussed above)
- Mayor Fahl: the City will be hosting an OPMA and OPRA, insurance requirements, and procurement practices training and requests city volunteers attend. Tentatively to be held in March.

10. Adjournment

Members voted to adjourn.