

**City of Lambertville**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
7:30 P.M., Wednesday, August 26, 2020  
Zoom  
MEETING AGENDA

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

- a. Liz Magill Peer
- b. Kate Millsaps
- c. Cyndy Jahn
- d. Kelly Kappler
- e. Gina Fischetti

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the February and July 2020 meetings. Minutes were approved. Kelly Kappler abstained on the February minutes and Kate Millsaps on the July minutes.

4. Old Business

- a. Sustainable Jersey

Keziah Groth-Tuft was hired as a consultant to work with the City to recertify with Sustainable Jersey with the goal of Silver certification. Cyndy Jahn will be the point person from the EC for this process. Keziah introduced herself to the Commission members and provided a brief update and the budget is now in place for her to proceed with first steps on the project.

- b. Sub-committees

No reports

- c. Planning Board

- Proposed development on Womack site at 65 Wilson: Applicant came before board for completeness review and deemed complete.

Board will consider a preliminary subdivision at an upcoming meeting. Steep slopes and storm water are main concerns. Cyndy proposed that members walk the lot to assess impacts. Kelly noted the EC did submit comments about concerns with the application.

- Lambert's Lane development: no recent submittals
- Lewis Island site: no new updates

d. Pesticides

A subcommittee has been formed. The City does not use pesticides, but residents do, therefore the subcommittee is looking at potential policies to address the issue. Lambertville Goes Wild asked if the City could set up a resource page on this topic and to receive feedback from residents. Gina will check with City Clerk to see if such a resource could be developed.

At the first meeting there was interest in developing a survey of residents to determine the level of awareness of pesticide issues and their concern about pesticides. Need to pursue this as first step in addressing the issue.

Liz will ask Mayor for update about state pesticide use along the canal.

e. PennEast

PennEast has split their application into 2 phases. The environmental assessment (EA) for phase 1 is now available for review and comment. Residents can visit the FERC docket to submit comments.

f. Trex

Mark shared a written update with the Commission. He recommends prioritizing addressing the overflow of plastic that is being stored at DPW and City Hall. The City doesn't have a system to get thin plastic to Trex so volunteers had been taking small batches to Giant. The program was suspended by city due to COVID. Prior to pandemic there had been

discussion if a city employee can work on researching ways to directly get plastic to Trex- need to follow up with city clerk. Additionally, if program is reinstated, there would be a concern with volunteers sorting through plastic given the pandemic.

Kate suggested updating program materials with locations where thin plastic is currently being accepted. Liz will work on update to advise residents where it can go.

Liz is talking to Trex to further explore ability to have pick ups.

g. Ditching Disposables

- Liz is working to print the posters for small businesses to display to advise customers on City ordinance. Liz noted businesses have requested postcards as well as posters. Printing 500 postcards would cost \$21 more than what is currently budgeted. Commissioners voted 5-0 in favor of postcards being printed as well.
- Members inquired what is the guidance from the City regarding ditching disposables implementation given the pandemic- if businesses are exempted during the public health emergency and if any are still using supplies that were in stock at enactment. Liz volunteered to inquire with City clerk.
- Kelly shared a draft flyer to advertise the Green Business certification program. The commissioners voted (5-0) to reallocate the funding budgeted for a press release for the program to have Happenings Media help Kelly to design the flyer.
- Sustainable Story Hour- Gina reached out to library and LPS and will follow up next week.
- Ditching Disposable bags available for businesses to give out. They can be picked up at City Hall.

- There is a surplus in the ditching disposable grant as the reusable bags came in under budget. Liz has received some feedback from businesses and public about ideas for the funding, including having flags printed about Lambertville as a sustainable city and reusable face masks. Commissioners were interested in the face mask idea as surgical masks are increasing as litter and Liz volunteered to get quotes for consideration.
- Animated video on ditching disposables: Happenings Media has a vendor that can produce the video on the plastic ordinance. The subcommittee will work on a content proposal for the video.
- Awards: Liz suggested awarding the 3 remaining awards at once. Kate and Gina will work on a proposal for new awards. Kate asked about increasing the award budget for glass awards; will revisit when the EC decides what the 4 award categories will be.

h. LGW

No update.

i. Environmental Resource Inventory

Holding off until 2021. Kate will start researching grant opportunities.

5. New Business

a. CAT Update

313 residents responded to the CAT's survey. The City is in a court negotiated agreement with the Fair Share Housing Center that includes using the police station site for affordable housing. The CAT is discussing whether the body will recommend a phase 1 environmental review for the site. At the September 1 City Council work session the CAT co-chairs will present.

b. Waste Stream Education Revisited

The previous Business Administrator had taken the lead on this program area, however now that he is no longer with the City, the EC will again be

working on the issue. Liz is working with Angela to develop an info graphic for residents on which products can go in which bins.

Liz will ask Lester for quarterly updates on trash/recycling/compost composition and the status of the compost program.

## 6. Public Comments

Sophie Glovier with the Watershed Institute:

- Noted the Institute's river friendly program has pesticide free materials.
- Green infrastructure rule issued by DEP in March to require new major development to use green infrastructure. Municipalities will be required to update ordinances by March 2021. Watershed Institute has developed a model ordinance that is stronger than DEP proposal. Institute can provide a more in depth presentation on their strengthened proposal and will provide bullet points. Their model includes redevelopment standards and minor development standards.

## 7. Announcements

- Sept 19th is Delaware River Clean Up
- Mayor Fahl will be nominating the EC for an ANJEC award for the ditching disposables initiative.
- Next meeting will be Sept 30th

## 8. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn and approved. Meeting ended.