

City of Lambertville
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
7:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 9, 2020
Zoom
MEETING AGENDA

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

Cyndy Jahn

Lindsay Hansche

Gina Fischetti

Mark Donlon (arrived at 7:10 PM)

Kate Millsaps

Kelly Kappler

Liz Magill Peer

3. Approval of Minutes

Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting and Gina seconded. The motion was approved (5-0). Liz abstained as she did not attend the meeting.

4. Waste Stream - Mayor Fahl

Mayor Fahl joined the LEC to discuss two points:

- She requested the LEC's assistance in developing an education campaign around strategies to increase the amount of products that can be recycled, ensuring the product is in fact reused and additionally increasing revenue for the City with proper "disposal". The Mayor noted there have been issues with increases in the amount of cardboard at residences; often the cardboard is wet, reducing the amount for which the City can sell it.
- Food waste: The Mayor informed the LEC that the program can no longer be run by DPW due to multiple issues including, lack of a nearby recycler, lack of manpower at DPW, and lack of proper equipment. She has consulted with the State DEP, which has recommended a pay for pickup model. She raised a concern with requiring restaurants to pay a fee to

participate in the program moving forward rather than previously the City had been requiring them to use a free service. In addition to restaurants, the program currently serves 200 residents and doesn't have the ability to expand. The Mayor will provide to the LEC information on the program utilization that could help in consideration of where the program goes next.

The LEC will form a subcommittee to work on rebooting the third can program. Members interested in serving on the subcommittee were asked to email Liz.

5. Old Business

a. LGW- Mary Anne Borge

Recommendations on updating the landscape ordinance

Mary Anne confirmed the proposed changes need to go before the Planning Board for approval.

Kate expressed concern on public nuisance language, asking if there was already a process by which the City would make that determination to pursue planting removal.

Gina raised an issue with street trees blocking architecture and noted this could be an opportunity to encourage space between. She also raised the issue of maintaining continuity when a street is predominately crab apple etc to maintain the aesthetic.

Mary Anne expressed concern with having a street of all the same trees because could be prone to infestation or other hazard; diversity in species increases ability to withstand such hazards.

The subcommittee recommended the LEC support the recommendations of LGW while noting further refinements could be made as more bodies review the document and with Mary Anne working to answer the public nuisance issue. The motion to support passed (7-0).

b. Sustainable Jersey- Keziah Groth-Tuft, LEC consultant

Keziah is working to prepare the application to recertify as Silver. To do so, the City needs 1 required and 3 priority actions and to earn 350 points. 50 points carry over from the previous round and Keziah believes 240 points can be easily renewed with data updates. These actions would cover the category and priorities requirements. That leaves 60 points the City must earn by the June 6th deadline for recertification.

c. Ditching Disposables

Liz noted the LEC has received an extension until June 30, 2021 to complete the grant and has received tentative approval for the water bottle distribution program requested by Lambertville Public School.

Liz noted the informational post cards and posters for businesses are printed.

Kelly shared the flyer promoting the green business certification program. The LEC members all approved the flyer design.

Gina noted she is still working with library to coordinate book donation.

Kate did not get the second hand award out for Christmas: will talk to Gina about timing for getting it out before May deadline.

Video: Lindsay has a contact who offered to produce a 90 sec- 2 min video for our budget. Lindsay and Liz will work on plot development.

Due to savings on other grant items, the LEC has \$1200-1500 surplus. At last meeting, the LEC voted to dedicate the money to sustainability programs at LPS, but LPS has no additional needs beyond the water

bottles at this time. Members supported requesting if the funds could be used to update our ERI.

d. PennEast

Kelly noted there is an upcoming DRBC hearing that folks are encouraged to attend. Also, the committee is looking for 2 new members.

e. Planning Board

Gina reported that the Planning Board held a second hearing on the redevelopment plan for police site as there was an issue with the recording for the previous meeting.

Additionally, the Board is hearing an application for a new garage on Bridge/Ferry St. Neighbors have raised stormwater concerns.

f. Pesticides

Liz would like to revisit this issue in 2021 given recent action in Philly to ban glyphosate.

Mark noted state legislation might be moving forward. Kate noted there is legislation to prohibit the use of chlorpyrifos, but was not aware if anything on glyphosate.

g. Waste Stream Education

Cindy Ege and Liz met virtually with Gary Sondermeyer from Bayshore Recycling and Vice Chair of the Sustainable Jersey Board to discuss the City's waste stream challenges and get his input. Gary will continue to advise the City as we work to improve our waste stream practices and education.

h. CAT Update

Cyndy reported that the focus right now is on the Clauson property acquisition, which is under contract to be finalized in April.

i. Sub-committees

No subcommittee reports at this time.

j. Trex

Liz will ask Cindy Ege for update on bag delivery.

k. Environmental Resource Inventory

Kate reported she consulted ANJEC about grant opportunities. They were not aware if any but would ask other Commissions how their work is funded.

l. Green Infrastructure Rule

No update

6. New Business

a. Christmas Tree Bonfire

The Mayor reported that the DEP notified all municipalities it would fine any town that has a Christmas tree bonfire.

7. Public Comments

None

8. Announcements

- a. Members of the EC thanked Mark for his service as he will not be seeking a second term.

9. Adjournment

Kelly made a motion to adjourn, Gina seconded and was approved (7-0).

