

City of Lambertville
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
7:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Zoom
MEETING AGENDA

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

2. Roll Call

Lindsay Hansche

Doug Hara

Cyndy Jahn

Kate Millsaps

Kelly Kappler

Liz Magill Peer

3. Approval of Minutes

Doug made a motion to approve the minutes, Kelly seconded. Minutes were approved (5-0-1). Cyndy abstained.

4. Oath of Office – David Livingston

David was sworn in as a Commission member.

5. Amanda Weigand - AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador

Amanda introduced herself and is interested in working on outreach and educational events, clean ups, and other events.

Amanda noted she can coordinate a microplastic testing in the water event. Doug and Cyndy noted they would be interested in such an event.

Liz noted that Lindsay is working on organizing clean ups and Earth Day activities and they could potentially work together on some ideas.

Amanda noted she has a presentation on rain barrels; Lindsay noted that might be a good match for Lambertville for Earth Day. The program could provide the barrels, the City would need to provide additional supplies. Amanda believes it comes to \$10 a barrel.

6. Old Business

a. LGW

Liz reported LGW is working on pesticide education. She also noted that the Planning Board will hear the proposed landscape ordinance update on March 3rd.

Lindsay met with MaryAnne Borge, teachers from both schools, a representative for the Parks and Rec Commission, and a representative from the library as an Earth Day Planning subcommittee. The Library plans to highlight materials relevant to Earth Day and wants to display community art. The committee is discussing a nature/insect art competition. They are also discussing an Earth Day scavenger hunt and zoom trivia.

Lindsay asked if there was a budget for art supplies for the competition. Liz noted the EC has an educational budget that could be used. Liz made a motion to use \$100 or less from the outreach and education budget for Earth Day supplies. Cyndy moved the motion, Kelly seconded and the motion was approved (7-0).

b. Sustainable Jersey

No update from Keziah.

Amanda noted watershed ambassador events qualify for Sustainable Jersey points.

c. Ditching Disposables

Library donation: Liz noted the invoice for books has not been submitted and we are waiting to hear back from City to find out about reimbursement.

Awards: Kate conducted the Green Style nomination and Open Door received multiple nominations but was the only business nominated. The Commissioners approved awarding Open Door without a further vote.

Kate will get a quote from Glass Roots for the 5 awards.

Green Businesses: Liz noted there will be a soft launch this week.

Animated Video: Lindsay shared an early drawing of the characters and reported that she, Doug and the animator are working on the script. Lindsay would like to have final approval on the character for the next meeting and hopefully script.

d. Penn East

Kelly reported that Gina Fischetti has rejoined the committee. They are looking for additional members.

The Supreme Court will hear the challenge to lower court's ruling that Penn East cannot condemn land owned by the State of New Jersey in April and decision is expected in June.

New chair at FERC with more environmentally conscious agenda.

The Committee is planning an event with other active CAPP groups in other municipalities along the route.

e. Planning Board

Kate reported that the Planning Board is currently hearing an application for subdivision and site plan approval for 39 Ferry St. The existing driveway encroaches on the 75 foot stream buffer around Swan Creek, otherwise the project is outside that buffer. The entire parcel is in the 100 year floodplain.

The Board will consider the landscape ordinance updates at its next meeting.

f. Pesticides

Kelly reported she and Mary Anne are working on a pro- insect campaign.

- They plan to host a webinar, “Cultivate Respect for Insects” on April 22 at 7. Mary Anne will do a presentation on insects too. They would like to host 3 webinars- 1 each month April- June.
- They would like to do a social media campaign on benefits of insects and link with drinking water quality.
- Discussing birdhouse, bird feeder, or bat box event.
- Discussing pollinator garden.

Kelly is confirming with the City that neonics and glysohate are not used on City properties.

Kelly noted that on policy, they would like to work with Audubon in promoting legislation banning pesticides, as this would have a broader impact. Kate noted there is legislation pending to ban neonics and chlorpyrifos, but nothing to ban glysohate.

g. Waste Stream

Liz noted the City is preparing an announcement for the bidding process for the compost drop off program.

h. CAT Update

Cyndy reported the CAT is looking at the City potential purchase of the Closson property. The City has to determine by April 30th if it is moving forward. Majority of residents are in favor of acquiring the property. The City would be using the open space tax and bond the remainder of the purchase and the bond repayments would be phased in as other debt is retired.

The CAT and City may ask for EC input on community use of the land once the property is acquired.

i. Trex

Liz noted there is no update at this time.

j. Environmental Resource Inventory

Kate is attending the ANJEC training on updating the ERI.

Liz will ask Sustainable Jersey to approve using the EC's excess Ditching Disposables budget for ERI mapping.

k. Green Infrastructure Rule

Liz noted the City's professionals are reviewing the ordinance.

l. Litter Clean-ups

Lindsay noted there are no dates set yet.

7. New Business

Doug: noted spotted lantern fly are prominent in town and asked is anyone working on this issue?

Liz noted LGW and the EC did social media outreach last year and she can ask Mary Anne for updates.

Cyndy asked if meetings could be moved to 6:30. Doug and David noted they work later but could stretch to make it, Kate noted she would not be available until 7pm with child care; members decided to keep start time at 7pm.

In an effort to keep meetings focused and shorter, Kelly suggested the Penneast report can be shared prior to meetings. Liz noted Planning Board and CAT could do this as well. Cyndy and Kate agreed.

Lindsay noted the Princeton EC is looking for a local business owner to talk about implementation of the Ditching Disposables ordinance. Liz suggested she ask Chamber to share with their members.

8. Public Comments

- Steve Chernoski, 88 Lincoln Ave: Steve asked about the composting program next steps. Liz noted we will focus on waste stream at large, including recycling too.
Steve noted that TAPinto is doing podcasts and offered to have members on to discuss priorities.

9. Announcements

None

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved (7-0)