

**GLEN ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Municipal Building, Harding Plaza, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

**MINUTES - Meeting of Wednesday January 20, 2021  
Meeting held electronically on ZOOM**

Ben Meyer (P)	Laura Occhipinti (P)	Candace Lynch (P)
Lesley Elton (P)	Sylvia Rabacchi (P)	Amy Martin (Council Liaison) (P)
Scott King (A)	Ann Marie Brennan (P)	

(P) Present, (A) Absent

**Green Team:** Teresa Gilbreath (P), Jessica Caron (P)

**Shade Tree Advisory Committee:** Elaine Silverstein (P), Candy Hall (P)

**Alternates:** Ken Jones (P), Sarah Froikin-Gordon (P)

**Guests:** Bob Buono (DPW Director), Carl O’Brien (Borough Engineer)

**Call to Order**

**Site Plan Review** – None to report

**Planning Board Report: See below**

<b>Agenda Topic/Owner</b>	<b>Key Points</b>	<b>Next Action Steps</b>
Minutes approval	Minutes of December 16, 2020 meeting to be approved.	Minutes approved. In national news relevant to the environment, we are happy to report that President Joe Biden has signed an Executive Order for the U.S. to rejoin the Paris Agreement!
Welcomes/Appreciation Meyer, Rabacchi	Thank you to Dr. Arati Kreibich, council liaison for 2017-2020. Welcome to new council liaison, Amy Martin  Introduction to the new DPW Director, Bob Buono  Update on Stormwater ordinance draft, Carl O’Brien	<u>DPW:</u> discussed plans for interaction and collaboration on stormwater management, and also on several recycling topics, including Styrofoam collection, leaves, etc. Bob Buono stated his interest in improving recycling and how this ties in with improving the environment in general.  Candace summarizes GREC’s past work on styrofoam drives and the high demand from residents for continuing to provide collection and recycling.  Teresa states the council interest to look into a municipal Styrofoam collection program, by providing a collection site at the DPW site where residents can bring their Styrofoam. Teresa asks for an estimate for costs that can be included in the financial budget meetings. Candace advised that a container at DPW is still full of Styrofoam and needs to be emptied. Bob stated his interest in helping with this and in general with setting up the program. Ken: preparing a document summarizing how other towns in Bergen county have developed their own program. GREC will prepare a summary for the council.
Stormwater Mngmt ordinance/O’Brien, Meyer	GREC participation in plans for new Stormwater Management ordinance	<u>STORMWATER ORDINANCE:</u> Carl O’Brien, Borough Engineer: Glen Rock is in Tier A, where a town manages its own storm water system. <u>March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for the major development stormwater ordinance updates.</u> Updates for the minor

developments (residential) will be next. Our current ordinance needs to be updated with the state guidelines, and has to meet at least the minimum for major developments (1 acre or more of disturbance= OLD ORIGINAL), OR creation of ¼ acre or more of new impervious (i.e., a patio). We already have this in our ordinance but it is not in the definitions, and therefore it needs to be clarified to become consistent and stronger. NEW component that can be added: Adding a requirement regulating creation of ¼ acre of motor vehicle surface. An example is a parking lot, with oil and vehicle fluids that can potentially be leaking into the ground; this would involve TSS removal since water should not run off freely into the storm system but should be pre-treated. This would add more restrictiveness to the ordinance. The draft ordinance will be distributed to GREC for review and comment. A discussion was held about which Borough office will review applications relating to the new provisions. The new ordinance implements the use of green infrastructure (GI), as opposed to the old seepage pits which are easy to build but difficult to maintain. GI is more user-friendly.

In summary, the main parts that need updating are:

1. Definition of “major development”
2. Requirements for Green Infrastructure
3. Permitting implications of applications (Refer to NJ DEP where appropriate, soil conservation implications, Impervious coverage increases in residential properties.)

CARL: Updates to requirements for MINOR applications and building permits will be done at a later point. The current updates are to accommodate the state requirements for mandatory updates for Major subdivisions that need to be completed by March 2021. It was agreed that further updates affecting Minor subdivision applications and building permits with an increase in impervious coverage will be done following the completion of the current activity on the updates for Major subdivisions.

TERESA: although there is no legal time frame for the updates for minor developments, we will work on this soon, also considering the on-going updating of the GR e-code, so this will be done. (The tree ordinance is also a priority).

Teresa asks Carl to put a Compendium on the Minor developments together soon for people to look at.

AMY: GREC may want to look at the entire stormwater ordinance to up the standards if we choose, this can be done after the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. DEP proposes a baseline but we can make the standards stricter if we choose.

		<p>CARL: if we set the criteria very strict, and then find later that they are too strict and impractical, the DEP will NOT allow us to relax the criteria.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure and penalties are the most important parts of the ordinance that can be revised (\$1,000 proposed for each day of violation), \$2,000 is the maximum in the model ordinance.</p> <p>AMY asks if there is a consensus from GREC: GREC members will all review the current draft and send feedback by Sunday night.</p> <p>Discussion whether it should go to the Planning board: plan is to have this discussed at the 1/25 planning board meeting and then introduced by the council if everybody agrees on 1/27 for first reading. If not, then it can be revised and introduced at the next meeting in February.</p>
<p><b>Feature topic:</b> All</p>	<p>SJ recertification – Update on feasibility on individual actions by all GREC members</p>	<p>Went over and updated the list of actions and assigned more actions to GREC members.</p> <p>Laura offered one-on-one training to GREC members that need help.</p> <p>Application submission is June 6<sup>th</sup>, and no new actions can be added after this date. If a few actions are not completed, submit them anyway and update after submission.</p> <p>3 Innovative projects need to be assigned: several projects that do not fit into any specific actions can be submitted as Innovative projects (ex. Census, Community Clean up, ACEE energy challenge, Amicus Briefs in support to CAFÉ and CPP energy standards), Dog Park, Intern program etc... For Actions depending on US Census results (Census action, Diversity, ERI), results are expected to become public March 31, 2021.</p>
<p><b>UPDATES:</b> STAC Updates/ Silverstein, Hall</p>	<p>Shade Tree Advisory Committee report. Discussion on Tree Protection Ordinance</p>	<p>Candy/Elaine: the committee will meet to discuss the new comprehensive tree protection ordinance.</p>
<p>Goals for 2021/ all</p>	<p>Discuss our goals for the new year</p>	<p>Discussed and updated the Goals for 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SJ recertification: deadline June 6, revisions in July, last revisions October</li> <li>2. Annual report for 2020</li> <li>3. ERI update</li> <li>4. Styrofoam: assist DPW in setting up collection/recycling program for residents</li> <li>5. EV charging stations: complete landscaping and finalize ordinance for parking</li> <li>6. R-GEA/SEA</li> <li>7. Stormwater management ordinance: assist Borough Engineer and DPW with developing ordinance updates for Minor subdivisions and applications involving an increase in impervious coverage.</li> </ol>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Continue education supporting backyard composting</li> <li>9. Tree ordinance</li> <li>10. Community cleanup</li> <li>11. Installation of rain garden</li> </ul>
ERI planning/Rabacchi	Environmental Resource Inventory in the process of being updated	Sylvia and Ben started checking the first draft, several revisions are needed including invalid links and other updates.
Styrofoam recycling / Jones, Lynch	Bergen county collections (Dec 26, Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> ), and development of permanent collection in Glen Rock	See above
Cloud storage/ Rabacchi	Google Drive will be used to store SJ recertification documents	We transferred relevant files from Dropbox to Google Drive. We will then move to the borough One Drive site when available.
Amicus Brief SAFE/Rabacchi	Local Government Coalition amicus brief on the SAFE rollback of motor vehicle emission standards	<p>The council has approved our support for the Amicus Brief supporting the CAFÉ standards for vehicle emissions and rolled back with the SAFE standards. We supported a similar amicus brief in April 2020, concerning emission standards for power plants (ACE vs CPP).</p> <p>The new President Biden, just inaugurated today, has already signed an executive order with the intention to re-join the Paris Climate Accord, and has also stated the intention to reverse the rollbacks on carbon emissions.</p> <p>Background: CAFÉ standards were first enacted by Congress in 1975 with the oil crisis setting standards for vehicle emissions (reduce energy consumption and increase fuel economy of cars and light trucks). Updated every few years. More stringent standards for new vehicles were adopted under the Obama administration. The standards were then rolled back under Trump, and new CAFÉ targets went into effect in June 2020, Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicle Rules would set new CAFE standards for MY 2022-2026 passenger car and light trucks and amend the 2021 MY CAFÉ standards.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	<b>Key Points</b>	
Application from Glen Park Village / Meyer	Application of Glen Park Village, 569 and 575 Prospect street for subdivision to divide two lots into 3	Ben explains that the application involves taking 2 lots and subdividing into 3 lots. This will be discussed at the February Planning board meeting. Shade tree committee and GREC wrote a statement to request that the Planning Board prevents them from clear cutting. The joint statement has been sent to the Planning Board for their consideration.
PUBLIC COMMENT		Resident Dan Corey, 101 Rodney St: states his interest in helping out, based on his experience in stormwater, utility infrastructure, EV updating DPW vehicles, renewable energy and similar topics.

Adjournment: 9:38pm