

# GLEN ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Municipal Building, Harding Plaza, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

## MINUTES - Meeting of Wednesday June 16, 2021

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

(P) Present, (A) Absent

**Green Team:**

**Shade Tree Advisory Committee:** Candy Hall

**Alternates:** Laura Occhipinti (P), Sara Froikin-Gordon (A)

**Guests:** Arati Kreibich, Jennifer Szawaluk, Michelle Tyler

**Call to Order**

**Site Plan Review** – None to report

**Planning Board Report**

Agenda Topic/Owner	Key Points	Next Action Steps
Minutes approval	Minutes of May 19, 2021 meeting to be approved.	Minutes approved
<b>Feature topic:</b> All	SJ recertification 2021 – Update on actions submitted on 6/6. Actions to be completed.	We submitted our application on 6/6 with 665 points. Several actions remain to be completed: 1. Need DPW input: ERI, and Commerc. & Inst. Recycling 2. Need Planning Board approval: ERI, Create a Green Development Checklist, Sust Land Use Pledge, EC site plan review,  We expect a report from SJ around mid-July. The deadline for the 2nd round submission is 9/10 with report back in mid-Oct. FINAL submission 11/21.
<b>UPDATES:</b> STAC Updates/ Silverstein, Hall	Shade Tree Advisory Committee report Tree Protection Ordinance	Candy reports that STAC is preparing the bids for trees for next year (Fall and Spring planting). New trees are provided with a water bag. Bartlett is treating the Ash trees for the Emerald Ash Borer. Tree ordinance draft is moving ahead steadily.
ERI planning/Rabacchi	Environmental Resource Inventory under review	Most updates are completed except for the recycling section. Several pieces of data were received from Lenora, we just need DPW to review it and update a small section. Scott indicates that it is best to send the ERI to the Planning board by the end of June so that it can be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting in early July. Sylvia and ben will keep working with Ed Snieckus, the borough planner, to complete the document.

Styrofoam recycling / Jones, Lynch	Update on plans for permanent collection in Glen Rock	Candace reported that Craig from Recycling was able to deliver all Styrofoam from the last collection Drive to Polymolding for recycling using the DPW truck. This is a promising first step for developing our permanent collection program. The next step is to set up a meeting with DPW, Amy and Teresa to discuss the details and get the program started.
EV chargers/Meyer	Usage update, and fee charging options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed the next steps needed to implement a fee for charging.</li> <li>- Discussed also an amendment to the current zoning code to permit installation of EV chargers. Needs 1<sup>st</sup> reading from council (next Wednesday) then Planning board approval before adoption.</li> <li>- GREC should email Mary Barchetto to encourage enforcement of 4h time limit</li> </ul>
Rain Garden/Elton	Update on rain garden installation	<p>Lesley reported that the garden was installed ~2 weeks ago and that Sylvia and herself have been watering it. Thanks to AnnMarie and intern Arjun as well for helping out. Discussed setting up a watering schedule for the summer. Laura offered to recruit interns to help.</p> <p>Sylvia wrote a description for the rain garden that is now posted on the GREC website. We are still planning for signage and to make a QR code referring to the website (using QR Creator) to be added on the sign.</p>
Gas Leaf Blowers/ Rabacchi	Summer intern tasked with researching gas vs battery-operated leaf blowers.	<p>A new intern, Jen Szawaluk, is working with GREC to create background material and educational flyers on this topic. She is a GRHS graduate and is now an entering Senior at Elon University, with a major in Public Health and minor in Env studies.</p> <p>She presented a summary of the detrimental effects of gas-powered leaf blowers on human health (respiratory system, cancer, audition deficits), and on the environment (pollution, particulate matter, greenhouse gas emission and disruption of animal habitats).</p> <p>Jen will produce a summary of ordinances regulating gas leaf blowers, and few flyers to be used for a future outreach campaign to residents recommending them to switch to battery-operated leaf blowers.</p> <p>In addition, Erica Jones, is creating a spreadsheet summarizing available battery-operated leaf blowers, with prices, potency and noise level.</p> <p>Sylvia proposes the idea to apply for a grant to fund the purchase of a couple of electric leaf blowers for DPW and that resident can borrow as demos. This would be part of an outreach educational campaign.</p> <p>Amy: we can make a list of landscapers that use battery operated equipment as part of the campaign.</p>
Stormwater ordinance/Meyer	Plans for updating the impervious coverage provisions of the stormwater ordinance for minor developments and building permits	A subcommittee will work on this (Ben, Arati, Scott)

New Business	Key Points	
Water bottle filling stations /Rabacchi	Introducing new volunteer and proposal to add water bottle filling stations at Alcove downtown, Triangle park and also at Faber field	Sylvia introduced Michelle Tyler, a new resident moving to town and interested in joining in our efforts to make our town more sustainable. Her current interests are in installing water bottle filling stations outdoors in the downtown area and also in reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers/pesticides. We discussed adding a water bottle filling station at the Alcove, and also at Faber Field and at the pool. Amy has discussed this with the council, and suggests that GREC looks for grants and contacts the businesses next to the Alcove for water access.
Intern program/ Occhipinti	Plans to resume Intern program	Laura and Arati are planning to re-start the Intern program in September. They will start recruiting students soon through the school, newspaper and Facebook. Program will run as trimester sessions for the year and will possibly meet in person at the Arboretum Education ctr.
PUBLIC COMMENT	None	

**Adjournment: 9:15pm**