

# GLEN ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Municipal Building, Harding Plaza, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

## MINUTES - Meeting of Monday September 13, 2021

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

(P) Present

(A) Absent

**Green Team:** Jessica Caron

**Shade Tree Advisory Committee:** Elaine Silverstein, Candy Hall

**Alternates:** Laura Occhipinti, Sara Froikin-Gordon

**Guests:** Jennifer Szawaluk, Maria Dolan, Jill Orlich

**Call to Order**

**Site Plan Review** – None to report

**Planning Board Report**

Agenda Topic/Owner	Key Points	Next Action Steps
Minutes approval	Minutes of July 21, 2021 meeting to be approved.	Minutes approved
<b>Feature topic:</b> Goals for 2022	Discuss and prioritize goals for GREC for 2022	Discussed and agreed on our top priorities: 1. Climate change mitigation/adaptation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Lower GHG: Climate Action plan (aligning goals with boards/committees), solar, renewable energy, energy efficiency outreach (residential, commercial), EV (resident, municipal fleet, fleet inventory)</li> <li>b. Stormwater for minor subdivisions</li> <li>c. Tree protection ordinance, promoting trees planting (municipal + residential)</li> </ul> 2. Styrofoam collection 3. Water bottle-filling stations 4. Green building (SJ actions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Green dev. Checklist</li> <li>b. Green building education</li> <li>c. Green building resolution</li> </ul> Amy intends to discuss GREC goals with the borough mayor and council and ensure alignment and implementation
STAC Updates/ Silverstein, Hall	Shade Tree Advisory Committee report Tree Protection Ordinance	The tree protection ordinance subcommittee is currently finalizing the application for tree removal, and discussing the permitting process
SJ recertification 2021	Update on actions revised and submitted on 9/6 and actions to be completed.	The revised application was submitted on 9/6 and we are waiting for SJ comments.

ERI planning/Rabacchi	Environmental Resource Inventory update	ERI was completed and revisions were included after comments from the Planning board. A Resolution formally approving the ERI and its incorporation into borough Master Plan will be adopted at the next Planning board meeting.
Styrofoam recycling / Jones, Lynch	Update on plans for permanent collection in Glen Rock	A meeting with GREC members and the director of DPW and the Recycling coordinator will be set up soon by council member Gilbreath.
EV chargers/Meyer	Usage update, and fee charging options	Ken reported on the new state law that facilitates installation of charging stations for all uses, including in multi-family dwellings. All municipalities will need to pass their own ordinances to reflect the new law.
Rain Garden/Elton	Update on rain garden installation	The rain garden is going very well and blooming. A press release appeared on The Glen Rock patch, thanks to the volunteers that helped maintaining it throughout the summer.
Gas Leaf Blowers/ Rabacchi	Summer intern reports on results of Leaf blowers survey	<p>Jen Szawaluk provided a report on the survey recently conducted to gather feedback on gas vs electric/battery-operated leaf blowers. The survey was disseminated via Facebook (Glen Rockers, Glen Rock, Glen Rock Moms, etc) and via the Friday email blast from the borough, as well as posted on the borough website "Borough News".</p> <p>288 responses were collected and displayed as pie graphs using the Google Poll app. The responses are very heterogenous.</p> <p>A few highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 61% are very or somewhat concerned vs 39% not at all concerned about the environmental and human health effects of gas leaf blowers. Similar results on whether noise bothers them.</li> <li>- 90% are aware of the existence of electric/battery operated blowers.</li> <li>- 42 % do their own landscaping.</li> <li>- ~40% would hire a landscaper offering battery-operated blowers for the same price or small increase</li> <li>- 39% would not ask their landscaper not to use a battery-op. blowers in the summer and let grass decompose naturally</li> <li>- 76% own a leaf blower: 43% electric or battery-operated, vs 34% gas</li> </ul> <p>We all agreed to develop, as planned, an educational campaign on the environmental and health benefits of using battery-operated leaf blowers, as well as landscaping equipment in general when possible. We also intend to create a list of sustainable landscapers to make available to the residents as a resource.</p>

Code update to include backyard composting /Martin	Current code Ch 162 Art II needs to be updated to include the option of using the fallen leaves for composting by residents ( <a href="https://www.ecode360.com/10100067#10100092">https://www.ecode360.com/10100067#10100092</a> - under "general standards")	Discussion on what to include in the updates to the composting ordinance: the group agreed to add that fallen leaves can be used for composting, flower beds, stored, or mulch with mulching lawn mower, in addition to the existing option to being brought to the recycling center, The size for a composting container remains the same (maximum footprint of 2 square yards).
Stormwater ordinance/Meyer	Plans for updating the impervious coverage provisions of the stormwater ordinance for minor developments and building permits	This will be addressed in the next few months
Water bottle filling stations /Meyer	Update of plans to install water bottle filling stations at Alcove, Triangle park and Faber field	Amy talking with the borough engineer about installing a water bottle filling station at Faber field as part of the upgrade project. Possibly also one at Memorial park.
SJ Bergen Hub	Glen Rock hosted meeting of July 26 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>New Business</b>	<b>Key Points</b>	
PUBLIC COMMENT		Maria Dolan suggested to contact the elementary schools and propose to raise funds as a class project to purchase trees. Jill Orlich suggested to educate the community about leaf blowers, and to make a listing of landscapers using electric landscaping equipment for residents that may be interested.

**Adjournment: 9:14pm**