

**Caldwell Environmental Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Borough Hall  
February 8, 2018**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Co-chairperson Ann Marchioni at 7:20 P.M.

**Attendance:** Ann Marchioni, Rob Edelstein, Phoebe Epstein, Sister Jeanne Goyette, Jane Kinkle, Councilman Jonathan Lace

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting were sent to commission members electronically and approved.

**Old Business**

1. Website Update: CEC member Kristine Mathieson met with Jane to review the procedure for updating the Caldwell Environmental Commission's website. Jane was able to add posts but not able to update and/or change content because she doesn't have an access code. Ann suggested that Doug Piazza could get her the code.
2. Anti-idling meeting with West Caldwell Environmental Commission's Chairperson James Haas: Ann, Phoebe, and Jane met with James on 1/29 to brainstorm for ways the two commissions could share activities such as Earth Day. The group came up with the following ideas.
  - Public Service Announcements by and for middle and high school students,
  - Tee-shirt contest for all CWC 5<sup>th</sup> graders (Jane suggested that Trinity Academy 5<sup>th</sup> graders could be included.)
  - Brochure listing all Caldwell, West Caldwell, and Verona environmental commission activities planned for the spring.
  - Anti-idling pledges given to elementary student to give to their parents to sign
  - Walk-to-School Days (Jon mentioned that Caldwell Police Officer Michael Pelligrino and Tracy Voca, a Caldwell parent organized a "Walking School Bus" last year.
3. Doug Tallamy Talk Update:
  - The Tallamy presentation "Bring Nature Home" on May 12<sup>th</sup> now has six confirmed sponsors: Caldwell, West Caldwell, Verona (\$500 each), Environmental Stewards (\$250), Conserve Wildlife Foundation and Native Plant Society of NJ (Mr. Tallamy's lunch and transportation).
  - Ann has sent letters requesting additional sponsorships for the Tallamy presentation to the NJ Beekeepers Association, Garden Club of Essex Fells, Morgan Farms, the Clifton Environmental Commission, Garden State Gardens, Roseland Environmental Commission, and the Van Vleck House and Gardens.
  - The date for the talk has been confirmed for Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Ann suggested a 1:30 start.
  - The presentation will be held in an auditorium (200 seats with a stage) at Caldwell University. The school will provide the tables for the lobby set-ups and AV equipment. Morgan Farms may provide milkweed plants to sell. Phoebe suggested providing wildflower seed mix to sell. Ann asked her to contact Pinelands Nursery for seeds. Other tables would be for Conserve Wildlife, and a table for information from each of the participating environmental commissions.
  - The CEC members will take Mr. Tallamy to lunch at Dough on the day of the presentation. Ann suggested that Dough could provide a gift card to be raffled off at the presentation.
  - The group decided against having a donations jar at the event.
  - Sister Jeanne will ask her friend to create a flyer for the event. The due date for the flyer should be April 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. Earth Day – Shredding/Electronics Recycling Program:
  - Rob has contacted Upcycle in Fairfield (<http://upcyclellc.com/>) for the electronics recycling. They will provide a truck and a team to collect the items. Jane suggested that the Earth Day flyer list what items are permitted for recycling (computers, iPads, mice, keyboards, etc.) Rob mentioned

that all of the electronics go back to e-Cycle Electronics Recycling  
(<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/ewaste/>)

- Sister Jeanne mentioned that the Green Team from St. Al's is interested in joining the CEC for Earth Day activities.
  - Conserve Wildlife Foundation ([www.conservewildlifenj.org/](http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/)) will provide a presentation at the Caldwell Public Library.
5. Garden – Cameras: Three cameras have been installed to deter further dog waste and trash vandalism.
  6. Open Space action on Sustainable Jersey: The Open Space plan submitted to Sustainable Jersey was not complete. There were a few suggestions for more involvement by the Open Space Commission such as meeting more frequently, having the OSC be a sub-committee of the CEC. Jonathan suggested that both commissions could work on a water conservation ordinance. He mentioned the Water Infrastructure Protection Act (Act), N.J.S.A. 58:30-1" WIPA stands for the Water Infrastructure Protection Act (Act), N.J.S.A. 58:30-1 et seq. In 2015, the New Jersey Legislature enacted WIPA, which allows certain municipalities to sell or long-term-lease their water systems if certain emergent conditions exist. ([www.nj.gov/dep/wipa/general.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/wipa/general.html))
  7. Water Conservation – Leaf collection: Most surrounding towns have mandated that leaves be collected in brown collection bags and do not allow for curbside leaf pick up. The CEC agrees that Caldwell should do the same. Bagging leaves helps keep leaves from blocking storm drains and prevents decaying leaves from polluting our lakes and streams. The collected leaves can be composted.

#### **New Business**

1. Site plan for 18 Gould Place was reviewed. There were environmental concerns about the amount of impermeable paving that would be added to the site.
2. Topic for Earth Day Presentation – April 28<sup>th</sup> at Caldwell Library: The CEC decided on Conserve Wildlife program: raptors/birds of prey.
3. Funds for plastic movie – shorter version: This was deemed too expensive.
4. Tree procedures: Several trees were inspected by Ann and Jane. They suggest that a list of native replacement trees as well as the regulations for determining if a tree should be removed to be included with application for a permit for tree removal.
5. SJ grant for Schools: Ann mentioned an interest in requesting a Sustainable Jersey grant to purchase environmentally themed films for the district's elementary schools.
6. Animal Shelter: The Mayor is investigating the possibility of having an animal shelter in the West Essex area.
7. CEC Minutes on Website: Jonathan suggested posting the minutes of the CEC on its website to encourage citizen engagement. This action is worth 15 points for Sustainable Jersey certification.

**For Future Discussion:** Letter and Setting a date for a garden meeting

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.