

## **Environmental Commission, May 10, 2018 meeting**

**Attendance:** Ann Marchioni, Rob Edelstein, Jane Kinkle, Councilman Jonathan Lace, Douglas Piazza, Phoebe Epstein, Sister Jeanne Goyette, Ann Martin, Kristine Mathieson

### **Agenda:**

#### **Old Business**

##### **1. Earth Day Update – TY to Library- Rob, Jonathan**

We have to rethink/brainstorm about what to do next year to inspire greater attendance.

##### **2. Open Space**

Proposal had been discussed last year to merge Open Space Trust Committee:

Ordinance would grant EC all powers of Open Space

Ordinance was introduced and it passed

Borough administrator is not a member of EC (Jonathan will pass along rationale)

Open space plan must be updated

Done incorrectly; wrong year was used in update

Land conservancy can perhaps do it but their price was high

We may be able to pay for it out of open space trust fund

Doug: Open Space Committee was only set to advise about use of trust fund

Open Space Plan always fell to Environmental Commission

Next round for Green Acres Funding is coming

##### **3. Garden Update**

Waiting for James Haas to till the sections for planting

So far, no more incidents; however, Ms. Moore came and complained about cameras

Her porch was viewable from camera angle—that's near where "packages" were

She wants tree roots removed from the tree that was taken out

Talk of taking out incorrectly growing magnolia

Trying to plant the trees we have and want to plant

Call for more members of the Garden Committee

Plants did well for the winter

##### **4. Dr. Tallamy Presentation**

Maybe take him to lunch or coffee afterwards.

Will put out material on pollinators that we had at Earth Day

(Tallamy will be a speaker at International Association of Master Gardeners at Valley Forge)

Good signage; the university is putting up signs for parking as well

Ann will introduce him

University will provide IT person

At Tallamy talk: Tell interested parties that we're putting info on the EC website

##### **5. Website – thanks to all who have helped – Jane, Rob**

Up and running

## **New Business**

### 1. Site plan

37 Cedars Road—has so far been denied, so went to zoning board for variance

We agree with zoning officials; we would love to see landscaping additional landscaping

### 2. Home Pollinator workshop

For after talk

Residents: some money left in EC account; could purchase materials to get people started

Or bring vendors to presentation who can speak to selling native plants

Pollinator gardens on Elm St. or Felloni properties? Or Ryerson?

Use Open Space money to buy plants for pollinator pathways

Jane: Get HS environmental club interested some Saturday, native planting

Pollinator Patch

Jane: National Honor Society hours? Offer that for service hours?

Need to write proposal

Plastics

Star-Ledger had front-page article

Discussion: Statewide ban on single-use plastic bag use

Has not made it out of committee yet

We could make petition

Jonathan: EPA website, 2014 document, solid municipal waste, total produced, plastic was 14%

Trying to get info on exactly what Cali does recycle

Now accepting more than we ever did

Show the movie again at Mount St. Dominic

Jeff Markay and Chatham, perhaps showing it there

Plastic ban also has Sustainable Jersey points

Question about suggesting it as an ordinance or a resolution

Getting the right kind of information to change mind set

Costco has no plastic bags; ShopRite already has people bringing carts back

Jonathan: Leaves

Leaves in storm drain

Water pipes, sewage pipes, storm drainage pipes, where leaves go

WC requires leaves to be bagged; Caldwell...?

Got data from John Hamer; info from Mario; gathering more

If it can be demonstrated that it's better to bag...

Leaves on street collect pollutants from cars; clogging drains, prohibitive cost of having leaving collected.

It is composted...and can be when bagged

Picked up as convenience for residents

Ordinance that requires leaves to be bagged?

Would have to be done in conjunction with West Caldwell