

## Minutes of June 14, 2018

Epstein, Goyette, Lace, Martin, Marchioni were present at the meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

### Old Business

#### 1. Plastic Bag Resolution –

The Environmental Commission passed the following resolutions unanimously last night for consideration by the Caldwell Council.

We urge the Caldwell Council to strongly encourage the residents to decrease their single use of plastic bags. Excessive plastic leads to harmful effects such as the polluting of our waterways, clogging sewers, endangering marine life and generating litter. Plastic bags do not decompose and are a source of dangerous chemicals.

We urge the Caldwell Council to strongly encourage local business owners to reward the reuse of bags. According to the Wall Street Journal, the United States uses 100 billion plastic bags requiring 12 million barrels of oil annually. Only 3% get recycled.

Goyette moved (Lace seconded) that the Commission accept the plastic resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Leaves update – a discussion was held as to the neighboring towns who bag their leaves – West Caldwell, Montclair, Princeton Borough – Motion moved (Epstein seconded) WHEREAS, un-bagged leaves present an environmental detriment & unnecessary financial cost to the Borough of Caldwell; NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Caldwell requests that the Borough Council pass an ordinance to prohibit residents to place un-bagged leaves on the streets of the Borough of Caldwell and which requires all bagged leaves to be placed in biodegradable and/or paper bags.” Motion passed unanimously.
3. The Sustainable Jersey Grant report was submitted.
4. Garden update – the bird garden is being planted, the Master Gardeners will be visiting on Saturday June 23, and the sign will be put in shortly.
5. Doug Tallamy presentation – over 125 people attended the talk – Milkweed plants and red oak trees were distributed to the attendees. Compliments of Pinelands Nursery and the Sustainable Jersey grant.
6. Open Space – possible sites for open space were discussed.
7. The value of trees statement was added to the tree permit.

### New Business

1. Pipeline Resolution Goyette moved (Marchioni seconded) the Caldwell EC support the resolution that there be a hearing on the proposed Compressor Station in Roseland. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Epstein moved ( Martin seconded) that we give a \$50 honorarium to Sister Gerarda for her work on the fliers for Earth Day and Doug Tallamy. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Speaker Series – a discussion was held to have an environmental film series- possibly in September for “A Plastic Ocean.”