

## **Environmental Commission, July 12, 2018 meeting**

**Attendance:** Ann Marchioni, Rob Edelstein, Jane Kinkle, Councilman Jonathan Lace, Phoebe Epstein, Ann Martin, Kristine Mathieson

### **Agenda:**

#### **Old Business**

1. Plastics Resolution/Compressor Station Resolution were submitted and passed at the Council meeting. “The Plastic Ocean” was shown to the Council.
2. Leaf Update –  
Jonathan asked Mario and John about bagging the leaves; they suggested doing so would save 75% of manpower costs. Question: Anything that would prevent property taxes and/or cut cost to the borough might affect community opinion.  
Question of whether this is an economic issue or a convenience issue.  
Jonathan believes there might be at least three council votes for bagging  
Jonathan will ask about the contract for collection of yard waste regarding Cali  
Phoebe reminds that the folks are already on staff; Jonathan reminds that they’re putting their efforts toward leaf collection instead of other things.  
Currently, leaves collected in the fall go to the sewer plant for composting; summer leaves are picked up by Cali and burned.  
Reasons to bag:  
Unightly, unsafe, will save us money, interferes with environment and water,  
Try for August meeting  
West Caldwell reasons for bagging:  
Safety: It wasn’t unusual for cars to park and start a fire  
Environmental 1: The blockage of storm sewers, erosion on properties  
Environmental 2: Use of chemicals that people put on trees  
Jonathan will bring this up at the August council meeting. We have an EC resolution to encourage bagging. We want them to pass an ordinance saying they need to bag.  
Ann Martin will research reasons why.  
Jonathan: We passed a resolution encouraging (we hadn’t forwarded to Council yet, until we spoke to Mario) residents to bag their leaves. The EC believes this is a worthy cause on multiple fronts; Environmental, public safety and economic. EC requests a chance to present our rationale at August meeting.
3. Ash Tree Update  
We have approval to have the ash tree treated; hoping that will happen soon.
4. Open proposal from land conservancy to bring up to date our open space plan. We had only a conservation section that doesn’t speak to open space; plus it used data that’s four years old.  
Must update open space plan.  
Current master plan uses data from 1998  
Jonathan suggests the re-exam payment should come from the borough, not EC or  
Open Space trust  
We missed out on some Sustainable Jersey points because of that

Motion to update the open space plan, seconded. It'll cost \$10,000

Re-exam report used data from 2014; we need an update to know what's open space

**Question of statement:** Commission fails to understand faulty or 20-year-old data was used in the re-exam report, which led to a loss of funding or certification points... Wanna hold off on that for now

We have a focus; we're not eligible for green acres funding because we're not up to date. We have an open space plan but the data is 10 years old. We can't use the information in there.

5. Sustainable Jersey Grant, ANJEC 2016 Grant—both grant reports were submitted and accepted.

All reports were submitted and accepted.

### **New Business**

1. Business Recycling

Discussed; at Rock 'n' Joe the other day, no recycling out. Only in back. Does Caldwell have ordinance to require businesses to have recycling cans out for public view/use? We can encourage that; talking about how to encourage businesspeople to get more involved in recycling.

2. Scout Project

Edging plan, asked if the Scout would do aluminum edging and he said yes. Could we pay him a bit to offset whatever costs? That seemed to be fine. Motion to provide Scout with extra money to purchase environmentally friendly edging.

3. ANJEC Achievement Award

### **Announcements**

1. The hearing on the Compressor Station is August 7 – 6 PM – West Essex Regional High School
2. No meeting in August

Native planting at the new construction opposite Smull

Plastic bag, ANJEC, Pledge

Idea of resolution says Town \_\_\_\_ resolves to support Gov. Murphy's ban on all thin, film plastic bags with a fee on reusable and recycled paper bags.—the language seems odd and incorrect. Perhaps suggests the plastic bags are banned; paper bags get charged for.

We're suggesting leaving out everything at end starting with “with a fee...”

A3267 is the number for the pledge.

Whereas the Environmental Commission of the borough of Caldwell voted unanimously to approve the foregoing resolution.

The borough of Caldwell resolves to support legislative efforts in the state of new jersey to ban all single-use plastic bags.