

# Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2022 7:30pm Zoom Video Meeting

## **Commission Members Present:**

Mimi Kaplan  
Allison Rankin  
Neeke Swart

Chris Capodanno  
Marnie Vyff

Jackie Bay  
Peter Smith

Eric Lee  
Conrad Lewis  
Dan Happer

Student Liaison  
Student Liaison  
Borough Council Liaison

1. Administration
  - December Meeting Minutes were approved
  - Confirm 2022 Membership
2. Discuss proposal for MLEC representation on ML DPW Sub Committee
  - It was reported by Mayor Menard that the Personnel Committee didn't reinstate an MLEC member to be part of the DPW as recommended and requested by the MLEC. Instead the MLEC Boro Liaison will represent the MLEC.
  - The DPW was mentioned to have developed into the purpose for the DPW to update Council Members
  - Items that the MLEC felt were important to the DPW is Stormwater Management
  - It was proposed that the DPW Sub Committee have an MLEC Member join the meeting Quarterly on a formal basis. That member can share trends in area's such as Recycling, Stormwater Management, and other Environmental Trends as well as gain an update to the DPW activities that impact the Community Environment.
3. Development & Environmental Impact Studies (EIS)  
333 Route 46 (Newsweek Building)
  - There was a question on page 3 where the Minimum Rear Yard Setback is stated to expand from 86.3 foot landscape buffer to 179.4 feet. An MLEC member will call to query this
  - Also noted was a 100 foot Off-Street Parking Setbacks which is proposed to be reduced to 90.3
  - The Tree loss and buffer on the West portion is of concern with the additional parking spaces and retaining wall  
367 Bloomfield Avenue (Veterans Home)
  - EIS was discussed and generally felt to be comprehensive. No comments were provided regarding the MLEC question the Parking Spots and locations. It was mentioned to the Planning Board liaison to address in the January meeting
4. Liaison Updates

## Student Liaisons

- Projects are progressing to improve Recycling in the High School and the Municipality
- \$525 was raised for #Team Seas in which half will go towards removing Trash using new technology and the other half towards cleaning beaches.

- Green Amendment Presentation - On February 3<sup>rd</sup> a MLHS Student will present a proposal supported by the ML HS Environmental Club regarding this topic. This will include a documentary "The Sacrifice Zone"

Green Team – As Silver Status was achieved, discussions are progressing on potential funds as the previous grant is closed out.

EDAC – An EC member is sought for EDAC

Planning Board - Neeke has accepted EC position on the PB

Shade Tree Commission

Sunrise – The Council is approaching the Sunrise development about additional planting based on the adjacent neighbor request. A discussion took place about using Shade Tree Trust Funds to plant, and it was agreed that could be reviewed based on the proposal, locations, and other details.

The Enclave – It was reported that additional Trees were removed not in the original plan, and an additional 23 Trees in the preliminary review. A consideration is being made if they may be able to plan more trees. It was agreed some Shade Tree Members would walk the site.

6. Any other Business

Beautification Committee proposal from a Council Member was shared with members

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm, next meeting scheduled for Tuesday February 15, 2022 7:30pm