

Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2021 7:30pm Zoom Video Meeting

Commission Members Present:

Mimi Kaplan	Chris Capodanno	Jackie Bay
Nicholas Coppola	Allison Rankin	Andrew Armani
Marnie Vyff	Peter Smith	
Eric Lee	Student Liaison	
Elizabeth Hirschfeld	Student Liaison	
Bill Ryden	Borough Engineer	
Sandy Batty	Resident & Shade Tree Commission	
Brian Marshall	Garden Magic LLC	
Necke Swart	Public Attendee	

Dan Happer, Council Liaison Absent

1. Administration

- May Meeting Minutes were approved
- Student Applications will be open until June 30th and interviews will be conducted in July. Term is from Sept to June
- Necke Swart was welcomed as a resident interested in the Environmental Commission

2. Development

Minor Development amendment discussion

- The MLEC is reviewing the Boroughs Water Recharge Management in light of storms and prevention of flooding or other negative impacts. A related Ordinance is under construction to make our policies more official and updated
- The Borough Engineer gave feedback on Ordinance updates including placement, use, and other technical updates to sections. Updates to minor projects can result in changes and removals to other portions. An amendment can be added to the minor project to address the intent once finalized
- The current impervious coverage would cover all houses in the Borough and a discussion took place on the appropriate limit. What would be equitable and defensible in term of square feet will be considered, with 400 to 500 likely being reasonable.
- It was agreed that a sub-committee would review more details and present recommendations to the MLEC members

Median Tree Planting on Route 46 - Jackie/Chris

- There has been discussion with the Borough Manager and Chief of Police, but there is still limited information from the DOT on the requirements. The Shade Tree Commission is confirming any requirements from additional sources at DOT that were provided
- There was a proposal at the last Council meeting regarding a Town Beautification Committee and that it would be good to have members of the Commissions represented if or when that is formalized

3. Ordinances

Noise Ordinance

- Montclair has been a model for the review to date and all members agree that it would be positive to control noise pollution from Commercial Leaf Blowers in particular for the peace and enjoyment of the community
- Next steps is to reach out to a Subject Matter Expert from Montclair to join the next MLEC meeting or a broader community event, as well as possibly setting up a focus group

4. Liaison Updates

Student Liaisons (Eric/Elizabeth)

- The MLHS Botanical Garden is still working to getting back to development and may be more of a Fall focus. Pending some time from Bednar Landscaping and further reach out will be made to see if we can advance development more quickly before fall opening for the students enjoyment

Planning Board (Nick)

- A special meeting of the PB was held on 6/10 to review an Ordinance 11-21 Amending Chapter 245 Of the General Ordances to make Cannabis Establishments "prohibited uses "within the Borough of ML. The PB voted in favor of the Amendment.
- The Planning Board will meet on the 6/22 to continue review with the Highview Commercial application.

EDAC (Nick)

- During our 6/8 meeting we heard a presentation from a guest speaker, Mr . Jeff Goodman, regarding the business nuances of the overall cannabis market including proposed regulations , taxes and revenue.
- A potential developer is considering submitting an application to develop the vacant on route 46W across from the Zeris property. He is currently in communication with Lake Arrow Head residence
- Next EDAC meeting scheduled for 7/13.

Shade Tree Commission (Chris/Marnie)

- Sunrise Assisted Living Development had an additional 12 Shade Trees planted in June and will be replacing further Trees in the Summer and Fall
- Tree Donations along with Honorary/Memorial Trees are being updated and encouraging Residents to make donations to the Shade Tree Trust Fund for the Canopy Replenishment
- Intervale Road Reforestation is under review and identifying if JCP&L and others may support funding

Green Team

- The Sustainable NJ Silver Application has been submitted

Lakes Advisory Committee

- Hydrating of the Main Lake was completed
- The ML Club shifted some Sand to refresh the Beach and it was confirmed not to be replacement

- Wildwood Living Shoreline is paused and under review to ensure the most sustainable and environmental best practices are used

Meeting was adjourned at 9pm, next meeting scheduled for Tuesday July 20th, 2021 7:30pm