

City of Lambertville
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
7:30 P.M., Wednesday, September 30, 2020
Zoom
MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order and statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act

2. Roll Call

- a. Mark Donlon
- b. Gina Fischetti
- c. Cyndy Jahn
- d. Kate Millsaps
- e. Lindsay Hansche
- f. Kelly Kappler
- g. Liz Magill Peer

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made and approved. Minutes passed (5-0-1) with Mark abstaining.

4. Swearing in Lindsay

Lindsay Hansche was sworn in as a member of the Commission and participated in the rest of the meeting.

5. Old Business

a. LGW update from Mary Anne Borge

- Leave the Leaves campaign: LGW is seeking help from the Commission to promote the Leave the Leaves campaign on social media. Leaf cover helps wildlife, works as a mulch and reduces costs for the City in leaf pickup. Cyndy suggested also placing the information on the EC website.
- Updating the landscape ordinance: LGW is working on a final draft of a proposal to present to the Planning Board for adoption. Updates include updating species lists to remove invasive and non-native species and recommending 75 percent native plants for new development. LGW is seeking EC support of the proposal.

b. Sustainable Jersey

Liz reported that Keziah has filled out all the documents from the City needed to begin the process.

c. Ditching Disposables

Liz reported that Sustainable Jersey has given us an extension until the end of the year to submit final items. Posters and postcards for businesses on the ordinance requirements are being printed and will be available shortly. Availability will be posted on social media and Liz will see if the materials can be shared at meetings the City is currently holding with local businesses. Liz noted the grant proposal originally called for holding a forum for businesses and we have funds for press release for that forum that can now be dedicated to other needs.

Liz reported the green business certification stickers have arrived. The EC has a budget for launching the program and some funds will be used for outreach material designs. The Commission supports making the program passively available.

Gina reported on progress for the sustainability story time and book donations. The principal of LPS would like to use the funding for activity books. Gina will share information on the books to confirm it aligns with grant parameters. Gina still has not been able to connect with the Library.

Kate and Gina announced they had not connected on the business awards and would do so after the meeting.

Kelly and Liz reported on the survey, recommending waiting until next year to conduct it as data may be skewed based on the pandemic.

Liz followed up on the \$2800 in available funds remaining under the DD grant. The EC had previously expressed interest in reusable face masks and Liz connected with New Hope Matters for vendor information. It would be about \$1.25 a face; the grant would cover roughly 2200 masks. Distribution ideas include a table downtown, have them available to businesses, teachers and students, and/or residents. The school would be less than 300 masks roughly so Gina will reach out to principal to discuss, but noted the hospital donated masks to the district and the district did provide them for staff. Gina will reach out the Chelsea Gardener who organizes sustainability projects within the school on needs of school/her team for minimizing consumption of disposable plastics. The money could also potentially be used to acquire additional workbooks the school had requested under the story hour grant money.

Video on waste stream education: Liz will share a sample of the vendor our publicity contractor has worked with in past. The City is currently partnering with the Chamber to promote local businesses in videos so may not need to include in this in the waste stream video.

d. PennEast

Kelly reported over 500 comments on FERC docket have been received. The City held a virtual forum with Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. Kelly and Ward Sanders held a next steps meeting earlier this month and as nothing emergent is on the docket, they agreed to meet in November for an end of year town update.

e. Planning Board

Gina reported on the following projects before the Planning Board:

- 65 Wilson: will be coming back before Board for their second October meeting.

- Fence on Union St: resident is seeking a fence above the height limit
- Strand Theater: the site is built out and application is to reconfigure existing building

f. Pesticides

Liz reached out to Cindy Ege, who confirmed there has been no additional spraying along the canal. Mayor Fahl did express concerns with pesticide spraying to the railroad owner.

g. Waste Stream Education

Liz has shared the proposed infographic. Waiting for input from Lester to move forward.

h. CAT Update

Cyndy reported that materials are available on the CAT website, including an interview with Steven Souza of Princeton Hydro on the impacts to Alexsauken Creek. CAT is also discussing the design of the residential units on the police site. Once that discussion is completed, CAT will discuss phase 2, a potential new municipal building downtown.

i. Sub-committees

No reports at this time.

j. Trex

Given the mounting plastic at DPW and lack of transport to a Trex facility, the EC is recommending the program remain suspended. Mark will continue to coordinate with Giant to move the existing inventory.

k. Environmental Resource Inventory

Kate will follow up with Jen Coffey on funding opportunities. Kate noted updating the ERI would earn points towards the Sustainable Jersey certification. Lindsay can help identify grant opportunities as well. Kate will also connect with Jen Coffey on options for putting the document together, including potential hiring of a contractor.

6. New Business

- a. 2019 Annual Report: Liz has distributed a draft, please send comments to her.
- b. Third Can – The City Clerk is looking for recommendations on how to continue funding the green bags that go inside the bins that residents can now pick up for free under a previous grant the City received. EC members discussed that once the inventory of compost bags secured previously via grant are used, the City can advise residents to purchase compost bags.

c. Green Infrastructure Rule

Mike Pisauro from the Watershed Institute and Councilwoman Urbish spoke on the need to adopt a new stormwater ordinance after DEP adopted new rules in March requiring the use of green infrastructure.

Mike spoke about the Watershed Institute's model ordinance that exceeds the DEP requirements and urged the EC to support adoption of these stricter standards by City Council. Additional protections in the model ordinance include:

- Creation of a minor development requirement (DEP rule only addresses major developments)
- Applying the requirements to smaller areas
- Creation of an on site retention standard so as not to flood downstream neighbors. DEP is addressing this in climate rules, not stormwater
- Require property owners to report maintenance to the City so that the City can meet its maintenance certification requirements under the storm water permit rules
- Creates quality standards for runoff from roofs and patios
- Keep 9 no structural strategies in site design requirements
- Applies requirements to redevelopment projects

Lambertville is required to adopt an ordinance by March 2021 and it must be sent to County for review.

Councilwoman Urbish noted the ordinance would be introduced for first reading and must be available to public for a certain number of days before the public hearing and Council vote and if significant changes are made it must go through the process again.

Therefore, she would like to hold a public forum on a potential ordinance with the Watershed Institute ahead of introduction to receive and incorporate public feedback prior to introduction. She would like to organize a meeting in October to have an ordinance ready for introduction in November and ready for a Council vote in December. Liz will assist Councilwoman Urbish in setting up the meeting.

d. Time Change:

Cyndy asked if the EC can start earlier at 7. Everyone voted to approve the time change.

e. Combination of November and December meeting: The EC will meet in October and then once on December 9th.

f. Limit length of meetings: The EC meeting will end at 9 pm unless there is a motion to extend. Members agreed to move speakers to the beginning of meeting.

7. Public Comments

- a. Mike Pisauro-: The Watershed Conference will be November 2nd-6th and will include sessions on climate change , environmental justice, and the green infrastructure rule. Registration is \$20.

8. Announcements

- Lindsay announced the River Clean up went well with 8 volunteers and a truck load was collected
- Kelly will host the October meeting
- The EC will receive an ANJEC award at the organization's annual conference for the DD campaign.

- Lindsay expressed interest in sharing county events and resources on our FB page and EC members were supportive if her posting those materials.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn passed.