

Pennington Borough Environmental Commission
Minutes for September 20th, 7:30 pm
Zoom Virtual

Attendees: Nick Angarone, Kit Chandler, Brian Friedlich, Joann Held, Nadine Stern, Sophie Glovier (Watershed Institute), Steve Tuorto (Watershed Institute), Nell Haughton (citizen)

1. No public comment
2. Review of past minutes- July 2021
Nadine moved, Joann second
3. Administrative Items
 - a) EC Membership – Bill Alexander resigned in July; Tim Schwartz moved to Full EC Member
4. Impervious Cover Assessment Presentation – Sophie Glovier, Assistant Policy Director, Watershed Institute and Steve Tuorto, Director of Science and Stewardship, Watershed institute did an impressive presentation about stormwater management and potential stormwater reduction planning.

Discussions were held among the PEC members on the following:

 - potential implementation projects.
 - alternatives for various regulatory changes.
 - Outreach/education on green infrastructure in Pennington.
 - Link on PEC website to Impervious Cover Assessment
5. ERI Update/Mapping (Friedlich-Chandler)
 - Kit to connect with Sophie Glovier for information about the vernal pools. Kit to coordinate with Nick on vernal pool mapping.
 - Tim will talk to Jim Kyle about checking numbers in tables, etc.
 - ERI meeting to be scheduled via email.

6. Landfill Property Update (Friedlich-Chandler)

The Borough has received the check for the grant funds, and the Borough is moving forward with Excel Environmental and the supplemental investigation. Testing will be needed for PFAS and some additional parameters. The state is requiring the additional testing so it is likely to take another year before this can be completed. The work is fully funded via grant.

7. Arboretum Update (Chandler)

Pennington Borough now owns the Arboretum property and we can move forward. Kit will re-form an Arboretum committee. In addition, the mayor wants to hold a neighborhood meeting to explain the plans to the close neighbors.

8. Borough Council Report (Chandler)

Pennington Borough Open Space is moving forward with purchase of wooded land next to African Cemetery. Excel Environmental looked into existing debris piles which look like construction debris.

The deer management program has begun again and been expanded to include Kunkel Park and the D&R Greenway areas. Also we are partnering with Mercer County for hunting in the Curlis lake property. The goals this year is 50 deer in the borough, 50 deer out of borough.

NJ Plastic Bag Ban goes into effect May 4th 2022. We will need to inform local businesses that the Plastic bag ban will go into effect May 4, 2022.

9. Planning/Zoning Board Report (Angarone)

No applications reported.

10. Green Team and Sustainable Jersey Update (Held)

In August, the Green Team learned that the place where they take Styrofoam would soon be switching to take only densified Styrofoam.

HVGT has started discussions with Sustainable Princeton and Mercer County regarding options for densifying.

In September, the Green Team learned that the place where they take CDs/DVDs and Jewel Cases would now be charging a fee to accept the material. They are waiting to find out what the charge will be. In addition, the place that had been providing shipping labels for wine corks is no longer doing so.

Pennington Borough has requested that the Green Team present their goals for 2022. They are still in draft but are likely to include Certification, Education, Recycling & Collaboration.

11. Carbon Neutral Workgroup (Held)

- a) Meeting with Lyla – she received data from Betty and entered into spreadsheet. She sent Joann what she had. We are missing data on Police Department mileage. Kit will look into getting this data. Joann to get back to spreadsheet.

12. Other Business

- a) Dog Waste Stations
- b) Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

These items were tabled until future meeting.

13. Next Meeting October 18, 2021