

City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, January 21, 2020

Present: Donna Goggin Patel, Chris Sprague, John Kilby, Jeff Hankinson, Rick Bell, Kelly Moughalian, Melissa Spurr, Mimi Zukoff

Guests: Courtney Cordaro, Renee Stene, Dr. Frederick P. Blau

Donna Goggin Patel called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. The December minutes were approved.

Earth Day Clean-Up: Donna Goggin Patel/Kelly Moughalian

Council approved the inclusion of the Summit Family Aquatic Center on the list of Earth Day Clean-Up sites for Saturday, April 18, and Sunday, April 19, 2020. Kelly Moughalian will explore the ease of including Hidden Valley Park. We also are thinking about whether or not we need additional supplies.

Roots for Rivers: Donna Goggin Patel

The City was awarded a grant under the Roots for Rivers grant program. The intention is to plant trees in various sites in floodplains around Summit, including two locations at the Transfer Station, the Municipal Golf Course and the first section of the new Passaic River Trail off of Chatham Road behind the DPW Shed. We hope to coordinate the tree planting around Earth Day.

Fire Station Plans: Dr. Frederick P. Blau/Rick Bell

The presentation of the latest Fire Station design does not reflect many – if any – changes to the roof to increase in solar capacity. Dr. Frederick P. Blau, Rick Bell, and Donna Goggin Patel will meet with Chief Evers to see if there any modifications that can improve the solar capability of the design.

Union County Hub: Melissa Spurr

Melissa Spurr attended the Union County Hub meeting in Cranford on January 16. Many Union County towns attended and each shared the top 2 of their 5 accomplishments from 2019. The Hub asked each town to share its 2-3 goals for 2020 and posited some questions for towns to consider: (1) Is there an interest in the Hub tackling a collective project? (2) If so, are there any ideas for a Hub-wide project? Some of the potential Hub-wide actions suggested include a model green roof ordinance, recycling solutions (particularly for #5 plastics (maybe with Preserve)), composting, legislative action, walkway throughout the County, collective education event, and business efficiency. Renee Stene suggested considering holding a competition among Union County producers to improve their packaging.

Green Summit: Courtney Cordaro

Green Summit is hosting a mascara wand and used gift/hotel key card collection at Reeves-Reed Arboretum main building foyer through month end. Through January 22, Green Summit is still collecting people's excess reusable bags (extras that they don't use or need) to distribute to certain area food

pantries and other organizations that offer routine assistance in coordination with Summit's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Justice, Equality and Service to Others.

Green Summit is hosting a series of talks about sustainable living at the Summit Free Public Library. The final talk will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 7:30 pm and will provide tips for creating a more sustainable laundry and bathroom.

The next Repair Café will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 11am- 2pm at Christ Church (including repairers for bicycles, sewing, electronics and digital cameras, and things made of wood). They are still looking for jewelry repairers. Email greensummitnj@gmail.com for details.

Recycling Advisory Committee: Mimi Zukoff

Mimi attended the RAC meeting on January 9 meeting. RAC discussed the current disconnect between recycling accepted curbside and at the Transfer Station. This is because there were two distinct contracts and the curbside one is in effect until June. At the Transfer Station, you may now only recycle plastics numbered with # 1, 2, 5. There is also no shredded paper recycling. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the Union County shredding events which happen periodically. RAC is also speaking with various groups and stakeholders around Summit to potentially organize a city-wide celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The EC is excited for this possibility.

GreenFaith: Mimi Zukoff

The public collection bin for the Trex bench program is currently located at the United Methodist Church (17 Kent Place Blvd). The blue collection bin is outside the door to the church office - look for the driveway on Deforest Ave that has the "Church Office" sign and the office is about halfway up the driveway on the right. Trex accepts these types of clean and dry stretched plastics: grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, Ziploc baggies, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt and cereal bags.

Other Business: Everyone

John Kilby reported that Common Council plans to review the tree ordinance this Spring. The focus is examining restrictions on the removal of trees, planting of trees, and replacement of trees.

In talking about educational displays, Jeff Hankinson suggested we consider placing a display at the train station (for the highest visibility) rather than somewhere like the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Goggin Patel.

2020 EC meeting dates. All meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of the month except as noted.

2/10 (2nd Monday)

3/16

4/20

5/11 (2nd Monday)

6/15

No meetings in July and August.

9/21

10/19

11/17 (Tuesday)

12/14 (2nd Monday)