

**City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, February 11, 2019**

Present: Donna Goggin Patel, Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, Rick Bell, Kelly Moughalian, Jeff Hankinson

Guests: Courtney Cordaro, Gio Sce, Susan Haig, Adam Zucker

Donna Goggin Patel called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM.

The January meeting minutes were approved.

Earth Day Clean-Up: Kelly Moughalian

Kelly has created an email address for the clean-up ([summitearthdaycleanup@gmail.com](mailto:summitearthdaycleanup@gmail.com)), and she is sending out letters requesting donations of tools for the clean-up. Donna has reached out to Oratory, Oak Knoll, and Celgene to see if they are interested in participating. Donna also will email the Girl Scout troop leaders to determine interest and age ranges.

Green Summit NJ: Courtney Cordaro

Green Summit will be hosting a second Repair Café from 1-4 pm on Saturday, March 23, at Christ Church (561 Springfield Ave., Summit, NJ). This event is cosponsored by Green Summit and the Summit Area GreenFaith Circle. If you would like to volunteer at the Repair Café (particularly for the check-in table at the event), please email Courtney Cordaro at [greensummitnj@gmail.com](mailto:greensummitnj@gmail.com). Green Summit is hosting a postcard party on Wednesday, February 20, for those interested in writing to the New Jersey legislators considering the plastics restrictions bills (S2776 and A4330). The event will be held from 9:00-11:00 am at Office Evolution (350 Springfield Ave, #200).

GreenFaith: Marian Glenn

The public collection bin for the Trex bench program is located at Congregation Beth Hatikvah (36 Chatham Road). The blue collection bin is located behind the building. 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.

Renewable Energy Subgroup: Marian Glenn

Scott Fisher of Ciel Power attended the subgroup's January 29 meeting and explained the Summit Home Energy Insight Program, which will resume in the spring. New Jersey's Office of Clean Energy has a set of incentives to reward homeowners who use a qualified contractor to make their homes more energy efficient for heating, cooling, and lighting. To streamline the process Summit is partnering with Ciel Power to perform a home energy assessment for \$49. In the first two years of Summit's program, Ciel performed 235 audits and installed energy efficiency upgrades in 44 houses. The average energy savings was about 25%. The subgroup also continues to listen to webinars and track information regarding community solar. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, at 8 pm.

### Union County Hub: Marian Glenn

Both Donna and Marian attended the Union County Environmental Commission Hub meeting on Monday, January 28, in Springfield. Two speakers from the NJ Clean Energy Program discussed programs and rebates available for residential and commercial energy efficiency programs. Representatives from Berkeley Heights, Rahway, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit, and Westfield attended. The next meeting will take place in March in Westfield.

### Community Garden Applications: Marian Glenn

Applications for 2019 season plots at Summit's Community Garden are available now through March 4 via an online registration page on the Community Garden page of the Summit Area YMCA website. (<https://www.thesay.org/Summit-Achieve-Organic-Community-Garden>) (There are also paper applications if needed.)

### Green Infrastructure Champions: Marian Glenn

There is a new and free program that will provide training sessions for Green Infrastructure Champions. Dr. Chris Obropta, head of Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, has developed a training program for self-identified Green Infrastructure. Marian is attending and has offered to help with transportation. You can register here <https://goo.gl/forms/rQtXUQnS80kKA47T2>.

### New Business:

Adam Zucker presented an update on behalf of the Summit Conservancy. The permanent free market building is in the final phase. Over the years it's been operating, the Summit Free Market has kept around 100 tons of garbage out of the trash. With the permanent building, the plan would be to hold free markets every other weekend instead of just four times a year as is currently done. The Summit Conservancy is seeking to raise the last approximately \$50,000 needed to fully fund the project. It is hoping to have groundbreaking this March, possibly on March 23 in the morning. When the fundraising mechanism is in place, we will circulate the details.

Jeff Hankinson is attending a meeting with several Union County individuals to discuss park connectivity (for the Park Line and other parks) on Wednesday, February 13.

Donna Goggin Patel explained that Summit will be applying for one of the \$2,000 small grants from Sustainable Jersey for various EC expenses on February 15. She also reported on a meeting she attended on February 2 with members of the ECs from Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and Madison. There will be presentation by ANJEC in Madison at 7PM on Thursday, May 16, at the Community House. Assemblyman John McKeon will discuss what's happening in Trenton on single-use plastics, and ANJEC will provide guidance on ordinances and next steps for municipalities.

Marian Glenn reported on developments with federal environmental legislation. The U.S. House of Representatives has a bill called Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend that has been referred to three

committees. Rep. Tom Malinowski is on one of them, Foreign Affairs, whose Chair, Eliot Engel, is a co-sponsor of the Green New Deal Resolution. Tom's other committee assignment is Transportation and Infrastructure, whose Chair is also a Green New Deal co-sponsor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Goggin Patel

**2019 EC meeting dates. All meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month except as noted.**

3/18

4/22 (4th Mon)

5/13 (2nd Mon)

6/17

No meetings in July and August.

9/16

10/21

11/19 (Tues)

12/16