

## **City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, March 18, 2019**

Present: Donna Goggin Patel, Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, Kelly Moughalian, Chris Sprague, Jeff Hankinson, John Kilby, David Naidu

Guests: Courtney Cordaro, Daniela Gioseffi

Donna Goggin Patel called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

The February meeting minutes were approved.

### Earth Day Clean-Up: Kelly Moughalian, Donna Goggin Patel

Kelly has been reaching out to past volunteer groups to coordinate the clean-up logistics for this year and is coordinating where to put the volunteers. She also received funds to get grabbers and a few other tools. Donna is in touch with a student group from Oak Knoll as well as the Summit Girl Scout troop leaders.

Dr. Rob Rubino asked that the paved portion of the Park Line be cleaned, and Jeff wants to add wood chips to the non-paved portion. The EC has also cleaned up the wooded area at the intersection of Mountain and Morris Aves in past years. We are looking for a group (adults or teens due to steepness and traffic) who could tackle that, and a group of 3-4 adults to work on the Park Line.

The regular spots are Briant Park (a walk-in spot); Martin's Brook Park (a walk-in spot); a small area of Wilson Park (not a walk-in spot; always worked on by the PEP group); Passaic River trail off of New Providence Ave (generally not a walk-in spot; usually cleaned by scouts and neighbors); and Passaic Ave near the RR bridge (not a walk-in spot; accessed via Risk Ave). Donna and Beth plan to tour the sites with Betty Ann Kelly from Union County on April 4.

### 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). The repairs available at this event include electronics, textiles, jewelry, wood furniture and advice on plants/gardening. This event is cosponsored by Green Summit and the Summit Area GreenFaith Circle. If you would like to volunteer at the Repair Café (to help with set-up or the check-in table at the event), please email Courtney Cordaro at [greensummitnj@gmail.com](mailto:greensummitnj@gmail.com). You also can check out the Green Summit display cases at the Summit Free Public Library during the month of March to see ways to reduce single-use plastics in your daily life.

### GreenFaith: Marian Glenn

Marian reported that Congregation Beth Hatikvah met its goal of 500 lbs of stretched plastics for the GreenFaith Trex collection. The public bin is now at Christ Church (561 Springfield Ave.). The blue bin is to the right of the banner out front, against the church wall. 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. There will be a Small Footprint camp for children ages 4-13 held the week of June 24-28 at St. Paul's Church in Chatham. They are looking for teens to serve as junior counselors. More information is available at [www.splashcampnj.com](http://www.splashcampnj.com).

### Summit Schools: Donna Patel

Parents from the Summit school green teams met on March 14. Franklin and Washington are hosting Trex collections. Washington and Lincoln-Hubbard also are collecting used Crayola markers for recycling. Jefferson School applied for a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant for a school garden. A team of parents also volunteered to work on an SEF grant in the Fall 2019 cycle to create pollinator gardens at each school. The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 17, at 9:30 am. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please contact [karin.pittle.gale@gmail.com](mailto:karin.pittle.gale@gmail.com).

### Passaic River Trail Work: David Naidu, Marian Glenn, Jeff Hankinson

Marian Glenn, Jeff Hankinson, Mayor Nora Radest, David Naidu and Beth Little met on March 17 with a group from Chatham and walked the Passaic River trail from Shepard Kollik park to the trolley berm and back. After the Chatham tour, the Summit group drove to the Department of Public Works area on Chatham Road and walked the pathway from there to Martin's Brook. There is a lot of litter there that may be tackled as part of the Earth Day Clean-Up.

### Great Swamp Watershed Events: Donna Goggin Patel

The Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) presented its 2018 Water Report Card for the Passaic River on March 12. The GSWA samples throughout the Great Swamp Watershed and at 5 downriver sites (including one near Stanley Park (between Chatham and Summit)). The Report Card will be available on its website ([www.greatswamp.org](http://www.greatswamp.org)). For the first time, the GSWA sampled for microplastics in late 2018 (including at the Chatham/Summit site). All 10 of the sampled sites detected plastics (whether it was microfibers or small pieces of plastic film/hard plastics from deteriorating plastics). The GSWA is holding a free training in stream assessment from 10 am-2 pm on April 6 at the Florham Park library for anyone interested in helping monitor the Passaic.

### Additional News and Upcoming Events: Marian Glenn and Daniela Gioseffi

The EC plans to host a table at the city's Local Government Week Open House on April 11 from 3:00-5:00 pm (tentatively Donna and Marian). And the EC plans to attend the Earth Day Fairs at Celgene on April 22 (tentatively Donna and Jeff) and 23 (tentatively Donna and Beth).

John Kilby mentioned that the Shade Tree Advisory Committee is utilizing one of the display cases at the Summit Free Public Library during the month of March to educate residents about Summit's tree canopy and the Emerald Ash.

Marian mentioned Governor Murphy's signing today of the Stormwater Utility Bill which allows municipalities in New Jersey to voluntarily adopt a funding mechanism to establish stormwater utilities. This is of particular use to municipalities with combined sewer and stormwater systems. Summit has a dual stream – its sewer and stormwater are not combined.

The Summit Public Library is hosting a free series on water this Spring. Hazel England from the GSWA will be discussing “Environmentally Sound Cleaning Products: What’s Under Your Sink?” on Thursday, April 4, from 6:30-8:00 pm. Marian Glenn will be presenting “Green Infrastructure for Managing Storm Water: New Jersey’s New Rules” on Tuesday, May 21, from 6:30-8:00 pm. (This is the rescheduled date based on the snow storm on Feb. 12.)

Sierra Club is hosting a discussion with Daniela Gioseffi and Marian Glenn about “How the Green New Deal Creates Political Will to Save a Habitable Earth.” This free event will be held at the Library of the Chatham (214 Main St.; Chatham) on Wednesday, April 10, from 7:30-9:00 pm.

Daniela also mentioned the work of Empower New Jersey ([www.empowernewjersey.com](http://www.empowernewjersey.com)), which is seeking to have Governor Murphy enact a moratorium on fossil fuel projects in New Jersey.

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.**

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