

City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, March 19, 2018

Present: Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, John Kilby, Kelly Moughalian, Rick Bell, Jeff Hankinson, Donna Patel, Chris Sprague, Greg Vartan
Guests: Susan Haig

Beth Lovejoy called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM.

The February meeting minutes were approved.

Action items in red.

Earth Day Clean-Up: Beth Lovejoy, Kelly Moughalian

The 2018 Earth Day Clean-Up has been scheduled for April 21. Kelly brought tee shirts which her company donated for the Clean-Up. She has also gotten more grabbers, bags, gloves and cups.

Beth confirmed the sites, and will let everyone know where they will be situated to help for the 21st, once participants have been confirmed for the non-walk-in sites. For the walk-in sites, Marian will manage Briant Park with help from Green team members, and Ellen and Ed Purcell will manage the Martin's Brook site.

Beth had scheduled a pre-clean-up in the reservation off of Oak Ridge Avenue for March 25, but this has been rescheduled to Sunday, April 8, at 1 PM due to the snow. The members of the local Democratic and Republican committees have graciously agreed to do this clean-up as a way of publicizing the main clean-up and showing bipartisan support.

NJ American Water Company grant possibility: Marian Glenn

The NJ American Water Company is offering grants for watersheds. Marian has been working with City engineer Aaron Schragger to prepare an application in partnership with GreenFaith to install a demonstration rain garden near Tatlock Field. The application will go to Council for its approval.

GreenFaith and plastic bag collection: Marian Glenn, Donna Patel

The company [Trex has a recycling program](#) that offers a bench made from recycled plastic to groups that can collect 500 lbs of plastic bags (approx 40,500 bags) during a six-month period. The project is already underway by students at Lincoln-Hubbard School. Donna will post information about where people can drop off their plastic bags to support the project. After Lincoln-Hubbard is done with its six months, GreenFaith may begin a six-month collection of their own.

Green Team and Sustainable Jersey for Schools: Donna Patel

The Green Team will host a table at the opening day of the Farmers Market on Sunday, April 22. The Vegan Cooking Class had to be rescheduled due to Winter Storm Quinn. It will be held from 11 am-1 pm on Monday, May 7, in the kitchen at Christ Church ([561 Springfield Avenue](#)). RSVP to greensummitnj@gmail.com. The Green Summit NJ social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram (@greensummitnj) just posted a series of tips to reduce waste in daily habits, including reducing food waste, paper towel use and plastic usage (from straws to plastic bags and baggies to Styrofoam and plastic-lined coffee cups). You can also check out the Green Summit display cases at the Summit Free Public Library during the month of March. Guess how many plastic bags are in the case by March 24 for a chance to win a Green Summit t-shirt and a reusable bag. The display includes

information about reusable bags vs plastic bags, recycling tips for Summit residents and information about the library's list of environmental books for kids.

Schools Update -- Donna Patel presented to Washington Elementary School's general PTO meeting on March 15 about Green Summit NJ, general tips on recycling and reducing waste, and the school green team initiatives.

Celgene Earth Day Fairs: Beth Lovejoy, Donna Patel

The EC will host two tables at both of Celgene's Earth Day Fairs on April 19 and 20. The EC table will have information on food, yard care and other general topics. The Green Team table will focus on reducing waste and suggest alternatives to single-use items, especially plastic ones. Donna and Claire Cummins will each be available for one of those days to work with Beth and Patti Schneider Smith. Marian will also be making a presentation about the Rahway River Watershed at Celgene from 2:30-3:30 PM on April 20.

Trees: John Kilby

John asked if there was a way to compile a list of landscaping/lawn services in Summit so that the City could reach out to them to make sure they know what Summit's tree ordinance requires. One suggestion was to use Next-door to get names from residents, and another suggestion was to see if a summer intern could compile a list.

Solar: Susan Haig, Greg Vartan

Susan expressed an interest in reaching out to the community to gauge interest in community solar matters. Greg indicated that solar possibilities are included in the master plan and that the Planning Board will be establishing priorities based on the master plan in the near future. **Susan will develop more information.**

Also discussed was the possibility of solar panels on the new Summit Free Market building, and whether the EC should write a letter encouraging solar panels and orientation of the building to maximize solar potential. **Beth will look into that.**

Broad Street West Redevelopment Project: Beth Lovejoy

The City is soliciting input into the redevelopment project. People are encouraged to go to <https://courbanize.com/projects/broad-street-west-redev/comaps/61> to make comments and sign up for updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Lovejoy

2018 EC meeting dates. All meetings take place in the Whitman Room at City Hall except as noted.

4/16

5/22 This is a Tuesday because no rooms were available on Monday, 5/21.

6/18

No meetings in July and August

9/18 This is a Tuesday because no rooms were available on Monday, 9/17.

10/15

11/12 Large Conference Room and a week early because of Thanksgiving.

12/17 Large Conference Room