

City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, April 16, 2018

Present: Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, John Kilby, Jeff Hankinson, Donna Patel, Chris Sprague, Greg Vartan
Council liaison: Marjorie Fox

Beth Lovejoy called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM.

The March meeting minutes were approved.

Action items in red.

Earth Day Clean-Up: Beth Lovejoy

Beth reviewed the locations for the April 21 city-wide Earth Day Clean-Up, confirmed who was managing each site, and went over the instructions for the event.

Beth will get the supplies to each of the site managers this week before Saturday.

Direct Install: Marian Glenn

The GreenFaith Circle met with the Interfaith clergy to discuss the BPU Clean Energy Program's Direct Install Initiative. <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/commercial-industrial/programs/direct-install> . The program is available to small to medium sized non-profits that have used less than 200kW in each of the preceding 12 months. The program provides a free energy assessment and a participating contractor will propose ways to reduce energy costs by replacing lighting, HVAC and other outdated operational equipment with energy efficient alternatives. The program pays up to 70% of retrofit costs, and provides a 3-year plan for paying the remaining 30%. Marian has told the clergy about it, and EC meeting attendees suggested other non-profits that could benefit from receiving this information. Marian will reach out to them.

Bags to Benches: Marian Glenn

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 clergy has approved the program to start at the Methodist Church in September. They are determining where to place drop-off spots for the plastic bags and Marian will let people know where they are when they are set up.

Green Team and Sustainable Jersey for Schools: Donna Patel

Green Team Updates

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 if you are able to attend. The Green Team will co-sponsor a talk on composting at MONDO on May 14. The Green Team is partnering with the Arboretum and Ciel Power to host a series of events on sustainability at the Arboretum. The first is on May 10 and will be a panel discussion on clean water in NJ as affected by climate change. The second is a sustainable fashion show on June 14 at the Arboretum. There is also a preliminary plan for a Repair Café to be held on Sept 22 at St. John's Lutheran Church.

The Green Summit display cases at the Summit Free Public Library were a success. There were over 100 guesses and one man was 2 bags off of the 428 number.

Schools Update – There will be a Walk, Bike or Carpool to School initiative for two weeks of May (May 21-25 and May 29-June 1). All of Summit’s public schools will participate.

Trail Work: Jeff Hankinson

Jeff has been working on cleaning up debris and repairing the Passaic River trails after damage from the winter storms. The worst place was an area where a large tree was uprooted and created a 5-ft hole. The Union County chainsaw crew came in and removed a number of large branches and trees that had come down across the trails as well. Wood has been delivered so Jeff will be able to finish the top of the renovated steps along the trail; the renovation of the steps was funded in part by a grant from ANJEC.

Trees: John Kilby

The STAC will hold its annual Arbor Day event at Washington School on April 24, at 2 PM. A tree will be planted there and the students will receive plants as well. Also on April 24, at 7:30 PM at the library, there will be a presentation about Summit’s Landmark trees.

The STAC is working on a form for tree companies to fill out to register with the City so that the City will have contact information for them to receive alerts about issues related to trees.

A purchase order has been placed by the City for the tools for trained volunteers to work on removing suckers from Summit trees.

Recycling Advisory Committee: Chris Sprague

A group has met to research and develop a memo on possibilities for bringing composting to Summit. Marjorie said that the Works Committee has just started looking into food waste issues as well. One interesting possibility that other municipalities have adopted is to engage in a program which takes food waste and burns it to create methane, which is captured and used to produce energy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Lovejoy

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

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