

City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, May 21, 2018

Present: Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, John Kilby, Donna Patel
Council liaison: Marjorie Fox
RAC representative: Karen Raihofer
Guests: Courtney Cordaro, Daniela Gioseffi

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

The April meeting minutes were approved.

Action items in red.

Repair Cafe: Courtney Cordaro

A repair café will be held on Saturday, Sept 22 at St. John's Church in Summit for 4 hours in the afternoon (exact time TBD). People may bring small items to be repaired (e.g., lamps, toasters, clothes for mending). **Courtney is looking for handy people to volunteer to make the repairs.**

Community Night: Beth Lovejoy

Community Night will be held on the Village Green on Tuesday, July 24. The EC and other green groups will have educational tables. **Beth, John, Donna and Daniela offered to work at the EC table.**

Rahway River Watershed Association (RRWA): Marian Glenn

RRWA will be working on a project at Meisel Field in Springfield on June 8 and 9. They will be planting 60 trees there. It is funded by The Nature Conservancy through Sustainable Jersey.

GreenFaith --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. 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.

Note: This same program is in effect now at Lincoln-Hubbard School until June 8; you can drop off items at the school.

Green Team and Sustainable Jersey for Schools: Donna Patel

Schools Update

Wilson Primary Center secured a grant of \$2,000 from Sustainable Jersey for Schools to revive its garden. Wilson also secured over \$4,000 for the garden from Summit Educational Foundation. The Walk, Bike or Carpool to School initiative across the district at Summit's schools is taking place now through June 1.

Green Summit NJ

Green Summit NJ hosted a table at the opening day of the Farmers Market on Sunday, April 22, and obtained more than 90 additional responses to its 2-question survey. Please take a minute to take the survey (www.greensummitnj.org) if you have not already done so. There are now Summit Farmers Market reusable bags

for sale (\$3 for one or \$5 for two) with the proceeds going to Green Summit. **Please let Donna know if you can volunteer for a time slot to sell the bags at the Farmers Market.** Green Summit, along with GreenFaith Circle, hosted a Vegan Cooking Class on Monday, May 7, for 20 guests, which was successful.

Green Summit NJ, in partnership with the Arboretum, hosted a panel on clean water on May 10. **When Donna receives a video of the event, she will send it around.** Save the date for a free event in the evening of June 14 starting at 6:00 pm. Reeves-Reed Arboretum will open its summer art show, which has a conservation theme, at 6 pm. This will be followed by a cocktail party and fashion show around 7:30/8 pm. This event is part of the Arboretum's Local Action/Global Impact series (which is co-sponsored by Ciel Power and Green Summit). **They are still looking for about \$1000 in sponsorship funds for this event.**

Follow-Up on 2008 Climate Action Plan: Marian Glenn

Marian led a discussion about priorities established in the 2008 Climate Action Plan and how we should be thinking about whether Summit has moved forward on the priorities and how Summit can continue to make progress. It was noted that disparate groups, both city employees and volunteers, and other community organizations and businesses, are all engaged in various activities. It would be helpful to get a handle on and publicize the many things being done, and examine what more can be done. Marjorie, Beth and Donna will try to meet with Amy Cairns to solicit her advice on how to gather more information and publicize Summit's sustainability efforts. **Beth will set up a meeting with Amy. Marian will develop a list of suggestions for further sustainable actions.**

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.

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