

Borough of Eatontown
Environmental Commission
47 Broad Street, Eatontown, NJ 07724
<http://eatontownnj.com/environmental/>

Laura Bagwell, Chair
Jessica Buck
Steve Fratini
Ken Kretsch
Mark Regan Jr., Council
Mark Regan Sr., Planning Board

March 18, 2021

Eatontown Borough Council
47 Broad Street
Eatontown, NJ 07724

RE: Environmental Commission 2020 Annual Report

Dear Members of Council:

Please find the following annual report for the Environmental Commission for 2020.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, at (732) 533-3951 or
L.Bagwell3@verizon.net.

Thank you, and I hope you are all keeping well!

On behalf of the Environmental Commission,

Laura Bagwell
Laura Bagwell

Enclosure

Eatontown Environmental Commission

2020 Annual Report

Members:

Ed Dlugosz, Chair; John Batinsey; Ken Kretch; Steve Fratini; Roger Greene; Mark Regan, Jr., Council liaison; Mark Woloshin, Planning Board; Laura Bagwell

Meetings:

Meetings were held the 3rd Thursdays of each month. No meetings were held in March or April, due to the pandemic and lack of quorum, respectively.

Committees:

EC members also served on the Green Team, Ft. Monmouth ESAC, Community Garden, and Complete Streets committees.

Web site:

A “Wiki” page was created for the EC to post links, meeting minutes, etc..

Air/ Water:

- The EC began discussing the stormwater ordinance that is required to be adopted by March 2021. Trustees of a local watershed group, Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, were invited to give a presentation about the new regulations.

Solid Waste:

- The EC drafted a local ordinance for single use plastic pollution. The EC discussed it and tracked the state bill, as well. Fortunately, NJ passed a state-wide Single Use Plastic law in November, which will supersede local ordinances.

Open Space / Parks:

- The EC applied for an ANJEC grant to plant a pollinator garden. Despite not getting the grant, the EC moved forward with planting a pollinator garden, with the help of the community garden and DPW. All plants were donated.
- The EC began working on a pollinator garden activity to engage residents.
- The EC voted to pass a statement in support of the preservation of 80 Acres park wooded land.
- The EC began research into a native plant ordinance. The EC drafted a proposed ordinance and forwarded it to the Shade Tree Commission for review and comment.
- The EC began looking into having an invasive species strike force training to address invasive plants in the town’s parks. Working with a Rutgers Master Gardener, the EC worked to organize a training to be held at the Arboretum. It was scheduled to be held in October but was pushed back to May 2021. The goal is to train residents to volunteer in various locations around Monmouth County to stem the advance of invasive plants and trees in parks.

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Seminars, Meetings attended:

- The Story of Plastic, May 2020
- Monmouth County Hub meeting & presentation on "Food Waste", May 2020
- ANJEC presentation on "Stormwater Green Infrastructure", June 2020
- Rutgers presentation on "Getting to know your Watershed" using online tools, June 2020
- ANJEC webinar on "Functioning ECs in the time of COVID", June 2020
- Rutgers webinar on "Backyard Composting", June 2020
- "Reducing Carbon Emissions for Heating and Cooling with Heat Pumps", November 2020
- Invasive Plants, November 2020
- How to have a Homegrown National Park, November 2020
- New York Botanical Garden's panel on Plant Extinction, November 2020
- ANJEC Annual Congress, held over multiple days

Clean ups:

- Participated in a clean up at the Arboretum and the corner of Rte. 36 & Grant, October 2020

Site Plan Review Comments submitted:

- Bowling Alley project, Ft. Monmouth, July 2020
- DCH Ford Amended Site Plan , October 2020
- Eatontown Wyckoff , LLC (formerly Fidelity Eatontown, LLC): Block 2303, Lot 1
Location: 141 Hwy. 35, December 2020
- Monmouth Plaza Enterprises, LLC: Block 1304, Lot 21.01
Location: Route 35 and Wyckoff Road, December 2020

Goals for 2021:

- Promote the importance of planting native plants, focusing on the ecological significance they have on birds, insects and other important pollinators.
- Promote a Pollinator Garden Challenge to encourage schools, residents and businesses to plant a pollinator garden with plants to help re-establish the native ecology of the watershed.
- Hold an Invasive Species Strike Force training to educate and train people to volunteer in their community to address invasive plants in our yards, parks, and Borough property. (Goal carried over from 2020).
- Work with Borough Council to select one of the open space suggestions from the previous EEC report on open space, and move forward with the selected item.
- Coordinate a recycling talk with our local recycling coordinator (Goal carried over from 2020).
- Add helpful and interesting content to our EC Web Site.

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- Hold events to reach out to the community. This may include talks, workshops, plants swaps, seed swaps, or local forest and park walks.
- Attend Council meetings as well as Planning and Zoning Board meetings.
- Train EC members through peer to peer training, ANJEC training and T&M site plan review training.
- Recruit someone from Shade Tree to be on the EC.
- Expand members of the EC. Currently we have 6 members.
- Assist the Green Team to help achieve Silver Sustainable Jersey status.
- Obtain T&M engineer's reports prior to site plan review deadlines, so our comments are better informed.