Minutes

Eatontown Environmental Commission (EEC)

Date | time 23 February 2021 from 7:11 PM to 9:03 PM | Meeting called to order by Laura Bagwell

Location: Zoom

# Attendance

**Present**: Laura Bagwell (chair), Mark Regan, Jr. (council rep) first half-hour, Wanna Chin (guest), Ken Kretsch, Steve Fratini (minute taker)

**Not Present**: Jessica Buck, Mark Regan, Sr.

# Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 26, 2021 were approved by the team.

# Agenda

* Roll call
* Approval of minutes from January 26th meeting
* Site reviews
  + Chick-Fil-A
* Stormwater ordinance
* Liaison reports
* Committee reports
* IT (Wiki page: <https://github.com/sfratini33/eatontown-environmental-commission/wiki> and Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/eatontown_env_com>)
  + Do we want to store minutes on the Github page?
* Pollinator garden announcement and wiki page: <https://github.com/sfratini33/eatontown-pollinator-gardens/wiki>
  + Collaboration with Pollinator Pathway
* AOB
  + See the additional items in the Discussion section below.

# Discussion

* Minutes from January meeting are approved, with minor comments from Steve to be made by Ken.
* Laura mentioned to ANJEC is offering some free (to members) classes from which we can register.
* Chick Fil A
  + Ken was concerned out the ingress and egress from the Chick Fil A lot. Action Item: Ken will formally write-up the issue.
  + Ken noted that there are many more parking spots than required by ordinance (50 more spots than needed)
  + The extra spaces could be used for various purposes. Ken suggested larger islands for trees. Steve suggested using the extra space for a bicycle path from Parker Ave. to the Chick Fil A.
  + Ken stated that there are issues with the lighting plan (he will also check with John Batinsey on these issues).
  + Laura suggested that native plants be used and that a rain garden be added.
* Stormwater ordinance
  + There was agreement on the two additions recommended by the borough engineer.
  + Since the additions from the borough engineers were tabled, Mark suggested that we at least go the version proposed by the borough engineer. Each municipality in NJ is required to adopt the minimum standards provided by the NJ DEP. The Eatontown borough engineer suggested an enhanced version (see attachment to the minutes).
  + Laura suggested that we (EEC) proposed The Watershed Institute’s additions.
  + The team agreed to recommend the initial proposal from the borough engineer, noting that the EEC could recommend enhancements in the future.
* Pollinator Garden Challenge:
  + Laura said that we will have a hummingbird talk on March 30th from 7PM-8PM. This talk is to be provided Monmouth County master gardeners.
  + The team made several comments on the email address format in the pollinator garden announcement. Action Item: Steve to remove underscore from email address and to generate a mini URL for the two websites mentioned in the announcement.
  + Laura suggested that we could do a pollinator garden photo contest at some point.
* Liaison reports:
  + Community garden (Steve): So far, we have received 16 applications for gardens. There are four open house zoon sessions scheduled (2/25 at 6PM and 3/6 at 10AM).
  + Complete streets (Steve): Nothing new to report
  + Green team (Laura): Two new people are looking to join the team. Laura is now the chair of the green team. The goal is to get silver certification from Sustainable NJ.
  + ESAC (Laura): There is a large amount of information at these meetings. The army is in charge of all the polluted carve-outs. One of these locations is a wooded area which is a bald eagle foraging habitat. Laura has several pages of notes from the last ESAC meeting.
* Committee reports:
  + Steve agreed to take ownership of the open space committee.
  + Steve noted a deer over-population problem. The team members noted various methods of reducing the deer population (hunting, sterilization, car accidents). Action Item: The team agreed to do some research on the topic and then perhaps make a proposal to the town.
* IT
  + The team agreed to put minutes on the Github page. Action Item: Laura and Ken to send Steve minutes from past meetings. Action Item: Steve to ask Mark to put a link from the borough EEC page to the EEC Github page.
  + Steve presented the EEC Google Group that he created. Ken liked the idea of having all the EEC emails in one place. Laura was concerned about using emails for quorum discussions. It was agreed to continue to experiment and test out the Google Group but not mandate its use.
* AOB
  + Laura is working on a rain barrel workshop. It is tentatively set for April 17th. Location and time is to be determined. She is working with our Watershed Ambassador.
  + Announcement: Laura announced a plastics cleanup at Popamora Point. It will be on May 8th at 10AM – 12PM.
  + Laura asked if the EEC has an email address. We do not but we should get one.
  + Ken stated that we have an EEC sign.
  + The team briefly discussed the flooding issue that Wanna mention (on Kremer Ave.). A stormwater utility might be a longer-term solution. The team did come to any conclusions concerning a near-term solution. This item is to be discussed at a future EEC meeting.

# Action Items

* As noted in the above.

# Announcements

* As noted in the above

# Next Meeting

March 23rd at 7PM