



Meeting Minutes - Red Bank Environmental Commission

Location: 90 Monmouth Street, 3rd Floor, Planning and Zoning Office
Date: September 5, 2023
Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

LAST	FIRST	TITLE	Present (Y/N)
Rodriguez Heyman	Paulo	RBEC Member (Chair)	Y
Godek-Johnson	Denelle	RBEC Member (Vice-Chair)	Y
Almerini	Ana	RBEC Member (Secretary)	Y
Johnson	Dave	RBEC Member	Y
Leder	Jenna	RBEC Member	Y
Meyer	Roy	RBEC Member	N
Martin	Travers	RBEC Member	Y
Massey	Megan	RBEC Alternate #1 (Planning Board Liaison)	Y
Schroder	Alix	RBEC Alternate #2	Y
Blyskun	Helena	Green Team Member	N
Hershberger	Matt	Green Team Member	N
Hunnewell	Chuck	Green Team Member	Y
McArthur	E. Pamela	Green Team Member	Y
Morrow	Robert	Green Team Member	N
Sala	Luisa	Green Team Member	N
Salinas	Oscar	Green Team Member (Parks & Rec)	N
Schmetterer	Dave	Green Team Member	N
Walton	Terrence	Green Team Member (DPU)	N
Facey-Blackwood	Nancy	RBEC Liaison to the Council	Y

Meeting open

- August minutes were approved by Danelle, Jenna, and Paulo. All in attendance agreed.
- Group attendance was taken.
- Eric Wokaas was present for the meeting and plans to apply to join the Green Team, Paulo emailed Eric the application

Council update - Nancy Facey-Blackwood

- Nancy is also liaison to the Shade Tree commission and provided an update on the trust fund
 - Shade Tree has a trust fund that a developer pays into if they do not plant the correct amount of trees. The amount will double to \$1,000.



- The Shade Tree commission shared a list of suggested native trees to Danelle, Paulo, Jenna, and Travers for feedback
- PorchFest is scheduled for 1st of October. Temporary bike lanes will be created to provide safe biking paths on that day but to also showcase what safe bike lanes can look like in town.
 - Nancy asked if anyone can volunteer to help set up and take down the temporary lanes on Saturday, 30th and Monday the 2nd. **Interested EC and Green Team members should email Nancy to volunteer.**
 - EZ Ride will provide all materials for set up and take down
 - Megan suggested that PorchFest should have advertisements in Spanish, Denelle will email Nancy to ask

Regularly scheduled meeting Agenda

- Alice, a member of the public, joined at this time. She just moved to Red Bank and works for HELPSY, a for profit company that places clothing donation bins in town or partners with municipalities and/or companies. She is curious if the HELPSY and the EC can partner. Paulo suggested the Green Fair could be a good place to partner and is emailing Alice at Alice@helpsy.com

Agenda Details:

1. Intro:
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Review/approve last month's meeting minutes; remit to Borough Clerk
2. Action Items from Previous Meeting - none

As the EC moves forward, the agenda will be a space where items will either be taken on by members or left as to be part of a broader conversation or reminder.

Ideally over the year the point person for each initiative will give an update to where they are on project

3. Current Initiatives - Round Robin
 - a. Administrative - need to get sign-in information for FB, sharepoint, and Paulo needs RBEC email - we have had multiple shared folders, shared drive, Google doc. An RBEC Google Doc seems to be the preferred method.
 - b. Bags - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
 - i. The bag ban is in effect - maybe this is just a public notice to us all. If we see violations. Per the Borough social media policy, the EC cannot send businesses a private FB message from the EC FB page.
 - ii. A member's opinion was that Foodtown bags are not better than the quality of former plastic bags - Pamela and Jenna will connect on how to



- address this and polystyrene coolers. The bag ban initiative will be tabled and wrapped into Green Fair planning.
- iii. Monthly plastic bag recycling program - Denelle will email Nancy to find out progress on this. We will sunset this but continue to post about it on FB for general awareness.
- c. Bike Rack Locations - leftover from Broad Walk
 - i. Denelle is emailing Nancy to confirm the amount of bike racks and acceptable locations
 - d. ERI (Environmental Resource Inventory)
 - i. We need to do this - the last time it was done was 1996
 - ii. Next steps:
 1. Megan will find out if the planning board has interest in using this document
 2. Paulo will ask Ocean Twp. which firm they used for their recently updated ERI report
 3. Travers will reach out to his former agency, ETM Associates, and to the Center for Sustainability at Rutgers to get a gauge on cost and potential utilize student talent
 - iii. Once a cost is established, we need to decide if doing part of the project ourselves and hiring a consultant for the last part makes sense. Or to apply to a grant and pay a consultant to do the entire project.
 - e. Food Waste and Composting
 - i. Danelle sent the share tables document to schools - RB used to do share tables pre pandemic and might try again, Denelle will follow up once the school year is further along
 - ii. Little Silver has an environmental day next month - they would like to present local fairs like our green fair - we need to confirm the date of our fair. Denelle will email JT to confirm asap.
 - f. Jenna provided an update on potential locations for Food Not Bombs in Red Bank. Food will be provided every Thursday at 7pm to anyone who needs food. **Members can reach out to Jenna if they want to volunteer.**
 - g. Alix asked if there is any composting plans for Red Bank
 - i. Next time we need to negotiate trash collecting we want to negotiate composting
 - ii. Alix will reach out to Lauren from Unwaste to see if her work can cover a municipal level
 - h. Grants
 - i. Existing Grants - We need to confirm what the existing grants are and how to close the old ones out
 - ii. Ideas for New Grants -. Sustainable Jersey has suggestions for grants/\$ amount



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- iii. What is the grant process? The EC needs to pitch a grant and tell Nancy, grant writer - Darren needs to approve
 - 1. Potential grants:
 - a. ERI
 - b. Sustainable Jersey grants will be announced in November and applications due in February - we want to get into that grant cycle
 - c. Wetlands restoration / osprey nest grant
 - i. Leaf Blower Reduction - Pamela will take the lead on this, we need to have a better understanding of what her plan and method is, what and why.
 - i. We will dedicate extra time to this next meeting - Pamela will share information in a 20 minute presentation, including Q&A
 - j. Ordinances - Council is eager for the EC to provide grant suggestions
 - i. The EC should come up with some suggestions (ideas: enhanced stormwater control, use native plants, EC should review borough wide plants, night sky ordinances)
 - ii. Sustainable jersey and ANJEC have example ordinances on their site
 - iii. Travers asked if we have an idea how the town would like to present the ordinances - we can utilize suggested ordinances from Sustainable Jersey and present it with our written up suggestions to Nancy
 - k. Quiet Zone from the Train - Pamela will prepare something to present
 - l. RGEA - 100% renewable energy in three years, has yet to be competitive to activate this. We do not know if there is anything the EC can do to work with the council - reach out to Nancy and Kate for update
 - m. Safe Drinking Water
 - i. Borough Drinking Water -Chuck will get data on safe drinking water and share with the EC
 - ii. Lead in Pipes - Water Spirit might be open to helping, and Megan will find out if there is anything the EC can do for this
 - n. Site Plans Review - All members want to be involved in this
 - o. Stormwater and Green Infrastructure - there is interest in learning more about a stormwater utility fund
 - p. Sustainable Jersey Certification - Danelle and Paulo worked on a tracking spreadsheet, it will be shared with us all - this will be homework for everyone for October meeting.
 - q. Website Updates - Dave showed us the website - redbank.site/environmental and would like suggestions
 - r. West Westside Pollinator Garden - Jenna and Lousia - going to rip out all invasive plants, keeping the milkweed and katmint. Date to replant TBD.
 - i. Suggestion: Can we have the library do a presentation on native plants, master gardeners would be good or Travers can in the Spring
 - 4. New Initiatives



- a. Porchfest - tactical urbanism; need people that Friday to create the bike lanes and Monday to take them down; goal is to create bike lanes in Red Bank
5. Public/Guest Comment
6. Conclusion:
 - a. Next Meeting Date/Time: 10/3/2023 @ 6:30pm
7. Motion to close by Danelle, Jenna, and Paulo