

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT – 2021/2022

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide and improve on environmental opportunities for all the residents of Medford, striving to maintain equality and fair use in all aspects of the program offerings.

MEMBERS:

Paul Celia
Deborah Evans *Co-Chairman*
Pola Galie - *Chairman*
Robert Lee
Michele Mayer
Eric Peterson
Robert "Bo" Petrillo
Beth Portocalis - *Township Liaison*
Pam Sloves – *Secretary*
Jennifer Warholak

LONG TERM GOALS:

1. Champion the cause and continue to provide information, support, and recommendations to Council to satisfy the open space needs for residents.
2. Tree City Certification Program – maintain certification year to year.
3. Review of major site plans to ensure environmental issues are addressed
4. Council adoption of comprehensive Tree Ordinance
5. Maximize funding and educational opportunities available to the community through Sustainable Jersey Certification.
6. Continue to seek out appropriate partners and grant funding for projects

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Maintained regular schedule of meetings remotely during pandemic until March 2022.
2. Sustainable Jersey Bronze Level Certification.
Achieved Bronze level certification for Medford Township to the Sustainable NJ Program thereby winning qualification for grant application and potential funding of environmental initiatives benefiting the community as well as access to educational and support training and education.
3. Received \$10,000 Grant from PSE&G for Medford Township through Sustainable Jersey to create an intelligent weather station for monitoring, modeling, and visualization in order to enable timely preparation and implementation of emergency plans. This is frequently referred to as the “Severe Weather Detection and Warning System”.
4. Tree Ordinance was delivered to Council and approved.
5. Established Green Team with Medford Township Approval and Ordinance.
6. Maintained Tree City 41st Award and Status.
7. Celebrated Arbor Day at Allen School and distributed 300+ saplings to 3rd grade students. 4/29/22
8. Medford Township & Medford Women’s Club Annual Township Yard Sale and Earth Day Event, April 30th, 2022, at Freedom Park. Distributed 500 free tree saplings, planting, and educational materials to the community residents.
9. Medford Farmer’s Market – After a delay due to Covid 19, the Farmer’s Market opened again from July to October 2021 and beginning June 8th thru October 26th, 2022, every second and fourth Saturday 9am -1 pm.

10. A representative from the Green Team attends the twice monthly Main Street Market to inform residents and visitors of programs and projects that the Team is working on as well as to share information about reducing single use plastic and other recycling and sustainability practices. It is another opportunity for people to drop off their non-traditionally recycled plastic for the Trex to Bench Challenge.
11. Hartford Crossing Mountain Bike Park – maintained multi-use park for low impact recreation activities. In Process of planning and creating web-based plant and tree identification system. Additionally, in process of working on Association of New Jersey’s Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) grant for improving the useable space of the park.
12. Open Space Reconciliation progressed from the township to State review and was approved.
13. Educational / Big Picture Goal – linking recycling and smart property management into lasting program. Prepare and present to HOAs and other interested groups to drive awareness of property waste (leaves/debris) and options to co-exist with nature.
14. Maintained Calendar of Events with key deadlines for EAAC Programs.
15. Development of Monthly information Bulletins to be posted on the township website.
16. In Support of the Plastic Bag Ban, worked with the community to collect and recycle single use plastic bags that were collected by the Trex Company which is recycled into Trex “wood.” 500lbs of plastic = one bench. Two benches have been earned and a third is in process. Location of the first bench will be Dr. Still Park. Location of the second bench is still in discussion.
17. Rain Gardens were installed at Still Park and Cow Point.
18. A grant application was submitted for Complete Streets but declined. Revisions will be made and it will be resubmitted.
19. With the support of a Medford resident who collected acorns from various species, the green team is working with Council to designate an area in the township where they can be planted and nurtured to maturity in a small model using a diverse mix of native plants. The goal is for this to be an educational opportunity with community children.
20. Medford Township was granted a sapling from the 500 yr. old “Salem Oak”. The sapling is currently being cared and protected by a former member of the EAAC who a certified arborist. When the sapling is more mature, it is expected to be planted at the municipal offices complex.

MEETING DATES

<i>January 25, 2022</i>	<i>January 26, 2021</i>
<i>February 8, 2022</i>	<i>February 23, 2021</i>
<i>March 8, 2022</i>	<i>March 23, 2021</i>
<i>April 12, 2022</i>	<i>April 27, 2021 (No Meeting)</i>
<i>May 10, 2022</i>	<i>May 25, 2021</i>
<i>June 14, 2022</i>	<i>June 22, 2021</i>
<i>July 12, 2022</i>	<i>July 27, 2021</i>
<i>August 8, 2022</i>	<i>August 24, 2021</i>
<i>September 12, 2022</i>	<i>September 28, 2021</i>
<i>October 10, 2022</i>	<i>October 4, 2021 (Sustainable Jersey Subcommittee Meeting)</i>
<i>November 14, 2022</i>	<i>November 23, 2021</i>
<i>December 2022 Meetings Combined with Annual Township Holiday Celebration</i>	

All Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month beginning at 7pm. Location is at Town Hall or via Zoom unless otherwise posted. Members of the Public Welcome.

Please contact the EAAC by emailing EAAC@medfordtownship.com. You may also call (609) 654-2608 x324.