

TOWNSHIP OF MEDFORD
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAAC)
MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, March 12, 2024– 7:00 pm
MEDFORD TOWN HALL, 49 UNION STREET

I. *Roll Call* (Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm)

Present: Pola Galie, Deb Evans, Sandy Krueger, Brian Pelloni, Tyler Matthews, Ed Tenthoff, Councilman Eric Rebstock, Beth Portocalis-Twp. Liaison

Absent: Ileen Wright, Alice Levas

Guest: Dana Jeffers and Ben Rochat

II. *Review/approve minutes of February 2024 Meeting*

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and corrected. Deb Evans moved to accept and Brian Pelloni seconded. Bo Petrillo abstained. All other voted in favor.

III. *Public Comments (limited to 5 minutes per person)*

Dana Jeffers talked about her new North Main Street business *Love Thy Nature Refillery* that refills various household cleaning and personal care products and accepts recycling and composting bamboo products. Will also be a drop-off site for plastic bag recycling. Opening soon.

IV. *Old Business*

1. Community Informational/Education Date & Program –

B. Pelloni said one speaker is lined up for the April 9th program and working on a second. B. Petrillo could do a talk on turtles. B. Pelloni could do a half hour on vermiculture using earthworms. Overall theme is native plants and gardening. Plan for 7pm to 8:30pm plus questions.

2. Sustainable NJ Certification- Re-cert due in 2025 -

Sub committee meeting 3/26 at P. Galie's place of business at 7 pm.

3. Green Team – Friends of the Green Team Meetings Working on Community Info night and a catalog of available information.

4. Earth Day & Tree Giveaway Spring Event - Sat., April 20th

P. Galie will pick up trees from NJ Nursery. The plan is to borrow buckets from her business again. She will be sending around a schedule so we are covered for the entire time from 7:30 to 1 PM at Freedom Park. The goal is to have 2 volunteers at all times. P. Galie & B. Pelloni to set up.

IV. Grant Applications/Projects -

a. The township did get the ACE Grant for Phase II Weather Monitoring

b. NJDCA Local Rec Improvement. Grant for Canoe Trail. T. Matthews and B. Pelloni will look into getting permits in place from DEP.

V. Tree City application submitted. 2/25/2024

VII Trex Bench project status - we will now have a fourth collection point. All plastic collected at the EMT Station, Senior Center and Love They Nature Refillery eventually arrives at Lower Forge for weighing before being taken to the recycling center.

VIII. Shade Tree subcommittee - Best practices for pruning – B. Pelloni, D.Evans, E. Tenthoff, B. Petrillo and P. Galie volunteered to be the subcommittee.

IX. Monitor:

1. Pedestrian & cycling related assistance and Twp. grants - Dealing with 2 different grants and grant monitors. The township is required to involve the public, meet with Del Valley Regional Planning Commission, and meet with Burlington County
2. Community Composting Project – B. Pelloni has on his list to investigate successful models. Federal Prison system reached out to Brian about recycling prison food waste.
3. Bike Rodeo in coordination with Police Dept. – B. Portocalis to talk to Chief
4. Open Space Acquisition - Just submitted green acres grant for \$550k - 11 acres at Hartford and Church
5. ROSI – Complete Review and Recommendation - Beth redid ROSI and added a couple of donated parcels. HOA areas are in the open space plan. Green acres to review before county registers.
6. NJ Future – Technical Assistance for FEMA Community Rating System/Flood Resiliency & Mitigation
7. Green Product Education – Discussion/Continued promotions
8. Utility Line Tree Cutting - Hope to influence guidelines for such trimming. Bo says we should reach out to Government Affairs and Board of Public Utilities.

X. New Business

1. Arbor Day Observance - 4/26/24 @ 10 am at Cranberry Pines School Medford Leas donated a tree for the school.
2. Deb asked how can we be more effective in getting the tree ordinance observed. Would it be helpful to send notices to HOA and tree cutting firms and real estate people. Every tree company must be licensed by NJ Board of Tree Experts and must follow town rules. Individuals can file a citizens complaint.

We have a part time Code Enforcement officer on Tuesdays and weekends. Zoning office has a list of all permits for work that includes tree removal.

XI. Planning & Zoning Considerations

The engineers on the committee have 2 site plans to review for environmental impact in the township

XII. Next meeting – Community Informational/Education event Tuesday, April 9, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, B. Pelloni moved and B. Petrillo 2nd, all in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.