

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT - 2024

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

MEMBERS:

Deborah Evans, Co-Chairwoman
Sandy Krueger
Alice Levas
Brian Pelloni
Robert Petrillo
Beth Portocalis - *Township Liaison*
Pola Galie - Chairwoman
Ed Tenthoff - *Secretary*
Ileen Wright - *Green Team*
Tyler Matthews - *Green Team*

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 has adopted a comprehensive Tree Ordinance. Continuing Education is needed.
5. Maintain Sustainable Jersey Application.
6. Continuing Community Education on Environmental Concerns.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Continue Single Use plastic bag recycling and reclamation to *TREX* resulting in benches for the community. 1,000lbs must be collected for each bench. Previously, the goal was 500 pounds. We are working with *Freedom Barks and Cub Scout Troup 26 with collection boxes at Lower Forge Brewery (where all of the materials are processed and weighed), Medford EMS 258, the Senior Center at Cranberry Hall, Love thy Nature Refillery and 2 boxes at the township building and library.* A total of 8 benches have been received to date or 5,000 lbs. of plastic.
2. Open Space Reconciliation – ROSI. Recommended to Council the acquisition of the property at Hartford and Church Roads across from Johnson's Farm with County support for 25% of the cost. This project has been approved.
3. Sustainable Jersey Certification – Maintained Silver 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 support training, technical assistance and education.
4. Held Community Information / Educational Program- April 9th, 2024. Topics included Composting with Vermiculture, Turtles in the Environment of Wetlands and Wetlands Buffers and Green Friendly Household Items.

5. Support Green Team Auxiliary which meets monthly at Cranberry Hall.
6. Arbor Day Event at Cranberry Pines Elementary School on April 26th, 2024.
7. Award from Sustainable Jersey / AC Electric for Phase II Weather Monitoring Grant of \$5,000 for a lightning detection system/ weather system at Hartford Crossing Park.
8. 45th Anniversary Tree City Event Celebration Planning. The committee is working with the community group, Sunrise Rotary to donate trees and have them planted in Hartford Park.
9. Clean Communities / Town Yard Sale Participation and Earth Day, April 20th, 2024. This is a collaboration between the Women's Club of Medford and the EAAC. 300 tree saplings were distributed to Medford residents for planting at no charge along with conservation information.
10. Continued Community Education of the Medford Tree Ordinance,

MEETING DATES:

January 23, 2024
February 13, 2024
March 12, 2024
April 9, 2024, *No Agenda. Community Education Event.*
May 14, 2024
June 11, 2024
July 9, 2024
August 13, 2024
September 10, 2024
October 8, 2024
November 12, 2024
December 10, 2024

All Meetings are held at Township Hall, 7:00 pm 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.