

**Environmental Commission &
Sustainable Montgomery Subcommittee Minutes
September 19, 2023**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been posted and sent to the officially designated newspapers.

Environmental Commission Attendance:

(√) Mary Reece, Member	(√) Kathy Lynch, Alt. 1
(N) Susann Brown, Member—	(N) Ratna Revankar, Alt. 2
(√) Frank Derby, Member (left 6:33PM)	(N) Brian Zinn, Advisor
(N) Michelle Jacob, Member	(N) Sahana Karthik, YLC
(√) Greg Kaganowicz, Member	(N) Maahi Sethi, YLC
(√) Yasmin Reyes, Member	(√) Devra Keenan, TC liaison
(√) Sarah Roberts, Member	

Additional Sustainable Montgomery Subcommittee Advisors

(N) Thuy Anh Le
(√) Lauren Wasilauski

Guests: Susan Bristol, The Watershed Institute; Mike Pisauro, The Watershed Institute

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm at The Watershed Institute’s offices in Pennington.

Agenda Items

- Municipal Stormwater (MS4 & IFP rule) presentation
Susan Bristol, Municipal Policy Specialist for The Watershed Institute presented a very thorough review of the DEP’s updated regulations for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations, as well as the Inland Flood Protection rules.

Greg mentioned that lawns are a very big contributing factor to stormwater runoff.
- Lenape Land Acknowledgement
- Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2023
Minutes were not taken.
- Approval of Minutes – August 1, 2023
 - Motion by Sarah Roberts, Second by Kathy Lynch
 - All in favor: all Opposed: none
- Public Comment
 - None

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- 2024 Budget Request
 - \$6000 will be requested, consistent with previous years' requests
 - Include Sustainable Jersey Silver Recertification due February 2024.
- Lenape Land Acknowledgement
 - Actions to accompany acknowledgement
 - Bridgeton group will have new website-identify ways that we can support their work, e.g., art, land donation
 - Potential actions: video on township website
- New Municipal Center – green initiatives
 - Solar- Municipal staff met with consultant
 - EV charging stations- Quote received, moving forward
 - Rain garden- Potential scout project
 - Maintenance of lawn & field areas
 - Detention basins
 - Maintaining existing trees & shrubs; planting new trees- Received grant money, targeting spring for plantings
 - River Friendly certification- work in progress
- River Friendly
 - MHS is now certified, a sign should be installed soon
- Composting- Information on resources provided to person that requested information.
- Sponsorship of MFOS rain barrel workshop – date To Be Determined
 - Motion by Mary to reimburse tuition for Montgomery residents with documentation of installation (e.g., Photo). Maximum 25 participants. Second by Frank Derby
 - All in favor: all Opposed: none
- Grants
 - 2022 DEP Stormwater grant-
 - Applied to retrofit 2 basins: Catbriar Court & Red Fox Court
 - Selected as grant recipient, awaiting more details from DEP
- Tree Ordinance
 - Staff drafting; will circulate for review
- Site Plan Reviews
 - PB-03-23: Harlingen Associates (block 6001 lots 33, 34, 34.01, 35, 35.01, 36)- scheduled for Oct. 23 Planning Board meeting. Discussion on sewer connection.
 - PB-06-23: Sharbell (Block 28009 Lots 1, 2 & 3)
 - Applied for conversion: condos to townhomes
 - Less density, larger setbacks

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- EC comments include requesting more trees, pedestrian paths improvements, lot location, solar

- Correspondence
 - Notice of application for NJDEP General Permit-by-Certification 5 for Bedens Brook Club (Block 31001 Lots 38 & 39) for relocation & expansion of existing pump station, dated 7/25/2023- *Lauren will review if out of flood plain*
 - Notice of application for Treatment Works Approval for BPS (block 28003 lot 211), dated 8/17/2023
 - The Watershed Institute 2023 Impact Report

- Old / New Business
 - Deer management
 - Season started 9/9/2023; 18 deer harvested so far
 - Detention basin at Estates at Montgomery
 - No update
 - Film series collaboration with Franklin EC
 - “Kiss the Ground”
 - Lauren to check the dates
 - “American River” not available until late this year/early 2024
 - Other suggestions – wait until next year
 - Host in Montgomery- in new Meeting Hall

- Upcoming Events
 - October 13: ANJEC Congress, Mercer County College- Kathy Lynch attending
 - October 22: Build your own Scarecrow, Montgomery Veterans Park, 3-5pm
 - October 27-29: Return to Art
 - October 28: Howl-O-Ween at the Farmers Market, 9-12
 - October 28: Trunk or Treat, Montgomery High School, 4-6PM
 - November 1-17: Halloween Candy Donation drop-off for Operation Shoebox NJ, OKCC

Upcoming meetings: October 17 (zoom)
 November 21 (zoom)

Meeting adjourned: 7:54 PM