

BLOOMFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

January 19, 2022

I. Call to Order - 7:34pm by Chair Cailyn Bruno

II. Attendance:

Present: Cailyn Bruno (Chair), Rich Moseson, Susan Marano, John Evangelista, Gregory Babula, Nick Joanow (Council liaison)

Absent: Flint Kinkade, Christian Delcroix, Sophie Sawyer

III. Approval of Minutes – December minutes approved

IV. Old Business

Outreach Subcommittee – Discussed plan to publish the agenda on social media in advance of meetings, or to directly notify people that engage with the social content. Cailyn to post February's agenda by Feb. 9th on the township's website. Rich will continue to attend school district Green Team meetings as commission representative for 2022. An idea for the Ebuzz article was discussed - the two new laws regarding native plants.

Ordinance Review: Rich drafted a letter to the Health Department with a request for information regarding enforcement actions and definitions on weeds, unsightly and obnoxious growth, insect habitat, etc. Rich read the letter and all members of the commission voted affirmatively to send the letter on behalf of the BEC. Nick will facilitate the communication between the BEC and the township.

ERI Subcommittee: A draft ERI was distributed to the BEC and members reviewed and provided comments. BEC discussed the draft ERI and agreed that it needs a lot of work to be brought up to par, and mainly the information was not specific to Bloomfield, lacked description of open space/parks, did not address flooding hazards, and overall seems incomplete. This document will be referenced in future planning decisions and needs a higher level of professionalism. Cailyn will aggregate the BEC's comments and provide to Nick, who will facilitate the communication with the Planning Department. All parties involved must be mindful of the grant deadline of April 2022 for completion of this report.

V. New Business

1. 2022 Meeting Format - Each month there will be a short presentation on an environmental topic, usually an issue raised by ANJEC, that is or may be relevant to Bloomfield. This should not last more than 15 minutes and will serve as an opportunity for members to stay current on the latest environmental news and topics, as well as

better serve the community by identifying areas where we might be able to best leverage change.

2. 2022 Goals Brainstorm - help Sustainable Jersey maintain certification; perform a pollinator lawn demo; public outreach with educational classes in the Spring; build a network with other environmental groups in town, especially schools; increase participation with community engagement; consider running a program or class at the outdoor classroom at Clark's Pond; building the Facebook page to be a local resource; finalize the ERI; continue momentum with the ordinance review

VI. Next Meeting: February 16, 2022 (Virtual)

VII. Adjournment – 8:53 pm