

BLOOMFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

April 20, 2022

I. Call to Order - 7:33pm by Chair Cailyn Bruno

II. Attendance:

Present: Cailyn Bruno (Chair), Rich Moseson, Susan Marano, Gregory Babula, Sophie Sawyer, Nick Joanow (Council liaison), Genevieve Reoch (guest)

Absent: Flint Kinkade, John Evangelista

III. Approval of Minutes – March minutes approved

IV. Old Business

Outreach Subcommittee – Discussed potential Buzz article topics, such as “No Mow May”. It was noted that there is a new contact for Buzz submittals.

Ordinance Review: BEC will submit a list of questions and invite a representative from the Health Department to discuss the answers at the next commission meeting. Namely, BEC would like to know if there are consistent guidelines for issuing violations.

The Commission also discussed looking at example ordinances to update Township requirements for planting native plants on township-owned property. A good list for native plants is from a NJ Department of Transportation 2017 report.

BEC also discussed other ways to promote and encourage native pollinator plants and green space around the township, along with a social and environmental justice considerations and giving everyone access.

ERI Subcommittee: No update.

Sustainable Jersey Subcommittee: Earth Day event will be Saturday, April 23rd from 11-3pm in the Library Courtyard. BEC will distribute vegetable seedlings courtesy of John Evangelista at our table.

2021 Annual Report: BEC reviewed and approved the 2021 Annual Report. The BEC will look to present a summary of the report at a Town Council meeting.

Farmer’s Market: Cailyn will reach out to Mike with the Recreation Department to secure a table for the BEC to distribute milkweed plants with a mapping component.

V. New Business

1. Flowering Plants Presentation - Susan Marano presented on the different flowering plants and shrubs that can be planted for a beautiful landscape and to attract

pollinators. Consideration should be given to which season it blooms, light needs, maintenance, and how much space is required.

2. Upcoming Meeting Schedule - BEC agreed to keep the meetings virtual and will revisit the topic in the Summer.

3. Essex County Roundtable - Leaf Blowers - Greg gave a recap of the roundtable meeting. Some municipalities in Essex County have been successful in passing leaf blower restrictions or bans, since they pollute the air quality, create hurricane-force winds that disrupt insect and animal habitats, are a noise nuisance, and pose a threat to worker safety. Municipalities are encouraged to pass local ordinances in order to create conditions for change on a state level.

VI. Next Meeting: May 18, 2022 (Virtual)

VII. Adjournment – 9:15 pm