

# BLOOMFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

June 15, 2022

**I. Call to Order** - 7:35pm by Chair Cailyn Bruno

**II. Attendance:**

**Present:** Cailyn Bruno (Chair), John Evangelista, Rich Moseson, Susan Marano, Gregory Babula, Sophie Sawyer, Flint Kinkade, Nick Joanow (Council liaison), Genevieve Reoch (guest), Michael Fitzpatrick (guest - Health Department)

**Absent:** Susan Marano

**III. Approval of Minutes** – May minutes approved

**IV. Discussion with Health Department** - Michael Fitzpatrick, Health Officer, joined the meeting to express an interest in working more collaboratively with the Environmental Commission and suggested that a representative from the health department join the BEC meetings regularly. BEC agreed this would be a good idea and opportunity to educate the health department and improve language on the current ordinances with regard to tall grass, weeds, encouraging native plant growth, and public health impacts of fertilizers and pesticides, while acknowledging the health department's concerns and obligations to the town's integrated pest management plan. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that in May there are usually ~30 tall grass complaints, while this year during the No Mow May initiative there were 125. Notices are largely given after complaints, but the Health Department will also do recons. He said that a measurable amount of rodent complaints correspond to areas with high grass notices. BEC noted that rodents are also attracted to litter and open dumpsters and several examples throughout the township were discussed. The discussion closed with BEC and the Health Dept. agreeing to work together on approach and consistency in enforcement of town code.

**V. Old Business**

**Outreach Subcommittee** – No Bloomfield Buzz this month. Rich went to the Locust Ave. site and observed the milkweeds to be very tall already and would be too difficult to transplant. He said the BEC can harvest from the Watsessing Butterfly garden for the giveaway.

**ERI Subcommittee:** No update.

**Farmer's Market:** BEC will represent at the community spotlight table at the farmer's market on July 5th. John Evangelista will provide milkweed plants, along with plants harvested from the Watsessing Butterfly Garden courtesy of Rich. We have at least 20 containers of plants to give away at the event.

**V. New Business**

No new business.

**VI. Next Meeting:** July 20, 2022 (Virtual)

**VII. Adjournment** – 8:50 pm