

Agenda for the Environmental Committee

Meeting Date: January 23, 2023

1) Opening – Dave Brizzolara

“This meeting, which conforms with the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW, CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAWS OF 1975, is a regular Environmental Committee meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board”.

2) Roll Call –

Dave Brizzolara Dritan Xhillari Norel Blundo
 Boniface Kiamue Kathryn Cribbin Jodi Murphy
 Student Member George Kabezian Student Member Morgan Fedorchik
 Councilman Chris Montana

3) Administrative Items

- a) Reorganization/swearing in – Morgan and George are sworn in as student members for another year
- b) Dave to reach out to Karen and Jean Marie to update the dates for the meetings this year on the website
- c) Dave to continue for 6 months as chair and secretary and Boniface as vice chair

4) Public Forum - none

5) Passing of December meeting minutes – passed

6) Trex Program – how do we feel about continuing the program

- Kate spoke with manager at Stop and Shop – manager said Trex is not getting the bags
- Norel said she spoke to the person at Trex and ultimately it is up to them to pick up the bags
- Kate – it doesn't feel right
- Chris – Rick said a lot of “recycling” ends up as trash
- Norel – if we revert to multiple stream recycling, the collection will not go into the trash as much; people are under the impression that they are doing something for the environment, but they are really making it worth
- Kate - Haworth recycling – they have signs that tell the residents what is being picked up when
- Norel – there is a strong market for carboard and metal, hardly none for plastic
- Dave – what tax implications does it have, if any?
- Chris – believes we have a higher rate with the single stream; doesn't believe we spend more, we'll probably spend less
- Dritan – could lead to a higher recycling rate; believes there is more awareness now and it would be advantageous

- Chris – probably can't do anything for 2023, but maybe for next year; in the meantime we could plan and educate the public
 - Dave – we need to be able to prove that it works and provide the town with the data and stats they need to make the decision
 - Chris – we should get Rick Woods to provide data on both
 - Dave – can we check with Boswell and see if they have a Solid Waste division that could help us
 - Norel – we can have the recycling company come for a talk
 - Chris – we should get the social media and environmental clubs involved in a video or some other educational program; Chris is going to bring in our recycler for the next meeting sometime the week of February 13.
 - Dave – can we open that meeting to the public
 - Chris – we should meet with them ourselves and then do a recycling 101 in March sometime
- b) Schedule and status update for 6 month cycle
- Norel – we are 25 pounds away from the next bench
 - Next 3 weeks – Dave, Kate, Boniface
- c) Bench installation
- d) Drop off locations – if we are able to find a better location that we know it makes it into the Trex program
- Dave – can talk to co-worker about who Oradell Environmental Committee and see where they drop off
- 7) Environmental Education Series
- a) Updates
- Norel – reached out to Audubon and how to plant a pollinator garden; they would be willing to do a talk and could do it in coordination with the library Garden Club – mutually beneficial; Tenafly Nature Center – remarkable raptors on birds – they bring a hawk and an owl and educate the public; they charge \$250 for up to a certain amount of people and do weekday and weekend programs; would be great for young kids
 - Dritan – we may want to do an educational series on the Spotted Lantern Flies; have a lecture on them; we should do that probably in spring to educate them for the summer
 - Norel – doesn't believe the state is tracking them anymore; seeing egg sacs and recognizing what they are and destroying them
 - Kate – would be good to go and educate people on the basics on what can and cannot be done to control them; some level of informative update
 - Kate – came up with low budget ideas – not sure about the budget (Chris confirmed it was \$2,500 and can be increased by another \$1K); community center talks and films about low impact living; ted talks; upcycling; reusing glass jars; making your own fabric softener (salt and essential oils); activity and informative for kids and adults

- Norel – making your own bug spray and cleaning materials out of non-toxic materials
- Diritan – you could do a little seminar and bring the materials to make it right there
- Dave – awareness on renewable energy especially offshore wind in New Jersey and straightening out some of the misconceptions out there
 - PFAs awareness for another idea – the “forever chemicals” that are now linked to so many health problems and cancers

8) Social Media

9) Open Discussion