

**Town of Clinton
Environmental Commission
Meeting Agenda for April 17, 2023, at 7:30 PM on Zoom**

Attendees

John Kashwick, Veronique Lambert, Kim Stentz, Shade Tree Liaison, Dean Solomos
Mary Jo Kurtiak (guest). Absent: Ken Carberry

John called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Dean moved that we approve the minutes from the March 6 and March 20 meetings. The motion was seconded by Veronique and passed unanimously.

John reported that the municipal budget was introduced on March 23. The budget hearing and expected adoption is scheduled for April 26. John mentioned that this week is Local Government Week. Denise Birmingham and John are doing an event at the Children's Garden at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow.

Ken was not in attendance, but John reported that the first hearing at the Land Use Board for the Moebus Tract plans is tentatively scheduled for May 16.

Kim reported that Shade is receiving a batch of Swamp Oak saplings to be distributed on Arbor Day. The Shade Tree Commission is looking to purchase tubes to protect the saplings, which are slated to be planted in the Pond Ridge section of Hunts Mills Park. Arbor Day is scheduled for April 28 at 10:00 a.m.

The Green Team met last week. Norma is trying to set up a paper shredding day. The police chief has already scheduled a prescription drug drop-off day. John mentioned that he plans to submit a couple of sustainability resolutions for which the town can get credit. We need to come up with an update plan for the Natural Resources Inventory. Veronique will prepare an annual report for last year's Environmental Commission so we can get credit for that. Also, Clinton Township said that we could partner with them on their Green Fair. John also mentioned a meeting with the Business Administrator and Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair to discuss greening our grounds maintenance.

John mentioned that firefly/dark sky festival on June 24—we should be able to get credit as an innovative project for this event. He is still waiting to hear back from the county (about the walk) and from the Red Mill, to confirm they will still host the event. The filmmaker of Sacred Night Sky will be available for a screening and talk about the film. Veronique mentioned that the county might be willing to send a naturalist. She is going to follow-up with them.

John mentioned that there is a Clinton Green Team Facebook page. He has asked the current administrator to make him the administrator.

The Raritan Headwaters River Clean-up was a big success—with close to 50 participants. A big thank you to Mary Jo for organizing! Mary Jo and Kim noted how few plastic bags needed to be collected.

The Clinton Conservancy Gardens has two work dates coming up—April 29 and May 13.

The paper newsletter is continuing for another quarter or two but the Communications Committee is looking to discontinue the newsletter and go to a monthly, digital format. Veronique and Kim expressed disappointment and thought we should continue to produce a paper newsletter.

The Commission still needs two additional members. Mary Jo said she was interested in joining. John said he would send her a Citizen Involvement Form for her to fill out and return and he will ask that she be appointed to the Environmental Commission and Green Team at the next Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kashwick