

## MINUTES TENAFLY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 21, 2022

In person meeting, Borough Hall.

Attendance: Julie O'Connor, Olga Milanos, Daniel Parks, Eve Bolkin, Jon Warms, Abigail Kushman, John Purdy and Mike Cassidy.

Guests; Melissa Bogursky, Charles Dutta and Dorothy Quincy

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

Statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

The minutes of the March 17, 2022 were accepted. John to send to Omar.

Julie gave the following M&C update with Dan on chemicals used for rodent control in TNC, what is a safer alternative? TEC should make an endorsement for a safer alternative to SGAR. Applied for grant for 50% for the cost to install ADA compliant planting beds in the former pool property. Applied for grant for EVs and will be requesting proposals for installation. Discussed including narrowing Riveredge Road by Tenafly Road in the grant application and reclaiming the land for planting. Discussed pros and cons. It's a county road so need county' approval. Mike Cassidy explained that it's expensive because of the traffic lights there and so little likelihood that it would be changed.

DPW report, comingles price dropped a little. Additional dog waste containers recently added are being used. Boy scouts installed park benches. Meter in building on property will be needed (a few thousand dollars).

Green Team – working on community garden with Green Team, one plot donated to giving food to food bank(s). There's a waiting list of people who would like plots. Discussed form for donating a bench as is one choice or other need benefitting. Town attorney to review form. Should develop list of needs for this purpose. Rose garden staff meeting with Mike for maintaining Rose Garden. Dan noted that the rental permit for use of the buildings and to take pictures is being updated and will allocate a dedicated amount to the Rose Garden. Arbor Day is April 29 and a tree will be planted at Smith School

Planning Board noted Clinton Inn improvements not inconsistent with Master plan. Building planned next to the Clinton Inn is now 6 stories; it will come back to the Planning Board and will then go back to the Council to approve. Gas station (corner of West Clinton and Tenafly Road) plan was approved for 6 pumps and a convenience store.

Eve Bolkin provided Earth Day Trash-a-Thon update.

- Explained the current promotional activities
- Abby Kushman added that her mother paid for poster signs at Davis Johnson Park and near Cafe Angelique

April 24. Weather looks good for now, Subaru sponsoring also. TNC also participating. DPW supports with additional trash collection.

Concern about leaf blowers, Olga sent information to resident. Invited him to provide article for newsletter. He hasn't responded.

## New Business

Greeted visitors to meeting, including a Boy Scout who attended meeting to fulfill Merit Badge requirement

Boro Newsletter, Zina will write up explaining plastic bag ban.

Olga attended virtual ANJEC meeting about what EC's do, document with a yearly report to M&C. Suggested not using recyclable dishes for picnics, etc. Encourage the use of permeable patio tiles/pavers.

Sponsor annual event to open community gardens.

Use marigolds versus insect repellent, work with Audubon Society. Order seedlings to distribute on Earth Day or Arbor Day thru the Forest Service. Planet Bee has a good website for helping bees and benefits for us.

Montclair plans to institute an ordinance to plant only native species on municipal land. EC leaned toward encouraging, not mandating. Butterfly bushes are not native, native species help birds. Invasive insect species spotted, lanternfly is here and more coming. Kills trees. Nest at base of trees, can mush it.

Dorothy Quincy (visitor attendee at the meeting) expressed interest in developing a composting program; will try to include instructions for backyard composting for newsletter (May 1 deadline)

Paint dumped at Roosevelt Commons Pond. Mike reported incident to State DEP and County Hazmat team. Local DEP will visit local construction sites to remind them not to dispose of paint this way.

Recycle Plastic bags? Probably not in Tenafly this year.

Next meeting is May 19, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted by John Purdy.