

WARREN TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Sustainable New Jersey Meeting Notes

January 8, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Environmental Commission (EC) of Warren Township, in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey convened in a Regular Meeting at the Warren Township Municipal Building, 46 Mountain Blvd., Warren, New Jersey on Wednesday, August 14, 2019.

Laura Mandell called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Flag salute

Pursuant to the requirement of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, Adequate notice of this meeting was given by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board and sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Echoes Sentinel and Courier News as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. All Commissioners are duly appointed volunteers working for the Township of Warren.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Laura Mandell, Susan Zeitels, Karen Task, Wayne DeFeo, Christine Lewis

Absent: Harold Black, Karen Kaiser, Sal DiBianca

III. Discussion

The purpose of the meeting was to go over Warren Township's Sustainable Jersey Certification. Laura Mandell introduced a new member to the group, Christina Lewis. Christina will be joining the WEC and the Green Team. Christina has served previously in Berkley Heights on their Environmental Commission.

Salem Tree

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection is providing tree seedlings from an iconic white oak tree from Salem New Jersey. The original Salem Oak was over 500 years old and over 100 feet tall. It is believed that this tree was part of a forest that covered the area and that early settlers met with native Americans under the tree. Acorns collected from the tree in the form of tree seedlings have been offered by the NJ DEP in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The Salem Oak Tree fell down and died in June of 2019. Warren will be receiving a tree seedling and a representative from the NJ DEP will come to Warren to speak on the importance of planting the Salem Oak Tree. In Warren this seedling is expected to be planted in the vicinity near the library.

The following actions were discussed:

1. Innovative/ Community Project
 - Affordable housing features in developments such as walking paths and boardwalks.
2. - Green Building Checklist – Create ordinance that says to the best of ability developers should build to the green checklist standards.
3. - Make your town solar friendly – Adopt Solar Friendly Ordinance (Get sample ordinance from other town currently doing)
4. - Green Infrastructure – Town Property – look at adding rain gardens, Bioswales, tree filter boxes, down spout planter, look at green roof on pavilion.
 - Review build out plan – ask Maryellen Vautin. Susan to review town Masterplan.
5. - Enhanced storm water management ordinance. Review Berkeley Heights ordinance.
6. - Natural Resource Category – Open Space – recommend to township to revise open space plan which hasn't been done since 2012.
7. - Habitat conservation and protection ordinance – Get sample ordinance – DEP involvement – Look at species, habitat and type protected.

8. - Review with planning board the Environmental Assessment reports (ordinance?)
9. - Green Design – upgrade/retrofit light pollution/dark sky adoption
10. - Points for public electric charging station
11. - Transportation initiatives; Adopt a PEV ordinance – awareness event at Green Fair – Krisann to get Fleet Inventory list from Purchasing/Mark. Look at adding electric vehicle to fleet.

IV. Adjournment – 8:45pm Wayne DeFeo made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Karen Task seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krisann Bintley, Secretary
Environmental Commission