

Agenda for the Environmental Committee

Meeting Date: February 27, 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/Council Liaison Report

a) Recycling update – meeting in March with Recycler – everyone come up with at least one question to ask...

- Recycler is not available for the meeting date in March so maybe we can zoom him in

4) Public Forum

5) Passing of January meeting minutes – Passed

6) April Town Cleanup

a) Logistics/supplies

- Chris to let Rick Woods know so that he can start pulling supplies together

b) Location

- Meadowbrook Park near Old Hook Road and the train tracks; near the stream
 - Chris to talk to WPD about the viability of using this site
- Brookside Park
- Meet at Westvale to start
- We can scout some locations before next meeting

c) Date/Time – April 22, 2023 coordinated with Earth Day;

- Chris – get the notice to the high school through the student members
- Women’s Contemporary Club – wants to be a part of this;
- Send notes to members of organizations that need service hours
- Start time to be the usual
- Rain date is the following Saturday – Kate to double check

7) Trex Program

a) Schedule next three weeks

- Dritan, Norel, Dave

b) New Bench – placement at the bird sanctuary park

- make up placards for the benches with something that says that the bench was made up of 500 lbs of plastic collected by the town
 - Dritan – it allows the public to make the connection and shows a tangible thing that the bag collection leads to
 - Chris – Could add a placard to the bench at the community garden; could add another bench around the track
 - Kate - Could also put it in the connecting path between Pascack Brook park and Westvale Park
 - Chris - Could move the current bench from downstairs to another place in town
- Karen reached out about making sure bags are clean that are brought into Borough Hall and maybe come up with signage to remind people.
- Boniface – Stop and Shop over in Closter seems to be willing to take the bags
- Chris, Kate – Stop and Shop in Emerson – seems to be still just throwing out the bags
 - Kate – They don't have the room anymore at Stop and Shop
 - Norel – has been in contact with Trex and they are confident it is being collected and turned in like it should be
 - Kate – Wegmans seems to be a good spot for drop offs

c) NexTrex – Any interest in the program?

8) Environmental Education Series

a) Updates

- Norel – do we want to book Tenaflly nature center?
 - Early May 6 - \$250 for up to 30 participants
 - Could do it at community center or library – Dritan to talk to director of community center
- Kate – could potentially do a presentation on upcycling
 - Potentially in June – Kate to put some ideas together
- Dritan – urban beekeeping presentation at the library

9) Social Media

a) Kate to do the usual email sign up and link to the form

10) Open Discussion

a) Community Garden – Norel spoke to Cathy Harrington

- 17 plots are already taken – 11 still available; can advertise on social media; application on the town website
- Taking a plot to do a pollinator garden
- Morgan – why are the schools not recycling?
 - It is Morgan and George's understanding that none of the containers actually gets recycled
 - Dritan – we need to talk to the district; there really has to be an option to recycle; maybe the issue doesn't have a contract with a recycler?

- Norel – it's not mandated
- Dave – Board of Education – George to ask at his next meeting – they meet every other week; will report back next month