

Madison Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 22 2021

1. **Call to order** by Chairperson Claire Whitcomb – Virtual Meeting via Zoom Conferencing.

2. **Announcement of meeting notice**

Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: Read by Claire Whitcomb, Chairperson.

This meeting of the Madison Environmental Commission complies with the Open Public Meetings Act. (P.L. 1975 c. 231) Notice of this meeting was provided to the Madison Eagle, Daily Record, Star Ledger, and to tapintomadison.com. Copies of this notice are posted on the bulletin board at the main entrance of Hartley Dodge Memorial and were made available to the general public.

3. **Present:** Bridget Daley, Ann Huber, Joan Maccari, Trina Mallik, Brian Monahan, Kirsten Wallenstein, Ellen Kranefuss, Claire Whitcomb
4. **Absent:** Stephan Stocker
5. **Guests:** John Hoover as BC Liaison, Brett Cheadle, Meredith Jones, Luke Seifried, Faiz Yasin, Kathleen Caccavale, Lisa Jordan

6. **Continuing Business:**

Madison High School Eco Scavenger Hunt: Students presented plans and development of a scavenger hunt (virtual format included) centered around locating items around town such as EV charging stations and native plants. They plan to have some educational materials at the locations to educate residents who participate. It was suggested the Farmers Market might be a good location to engage people; Lisa Ellis to be contacted about farmers market location to engage people. Gift cards for incentives to participate were discussed as well.

EV Expo: The event held on April 22nd was a great gathering of people and vehicle options for more sustainable transport. Participants enjoyed the company of the Mayor and some Borough Council members. Considerations for a slightly more structured format, educational information and greater opportunity to talk with the various dealers were raised. These points will be considered for an event like it again in the future.

MRC Developments: Brian reported a flurry of activity has taken place through the volunteer efforts and support of many dedicated individuals and groups. Twenty seven species of natives have been planted at the meadow; 100 trees and 40 bushes have been planted as a pollution and noise break; NJ Forestry completed a successful controlled burn; 9 acres have been seeded; 250 trees were planted by the girl scouts. The active presence of more birds has been casually observed and Brian will inquire if someone with some birding expertise might help with cataloguing the birds.

Energy Audit: The comprehensive audit encompassing five structures including Hartley Dodge, DPW, Public Safety and the library identified issues such as LED lights, motion sensors and HVAC changes. Recommendations included ROI data. Upgrades will be made on lights that have not already been upgraded prior to the audit. During the audit period, some discussion was also directed at use of summer boilers for longer parts of the year for enhanced energy savings.

Milkweed – Joan has 200 seedlings of 5 varieties of milkweed that have now sprouted. Discussion about a central spot to distribute the orders landed on a table at the farmers market and the community garden; follow-up will be done to confirm the availability of a table at the market. A plant pollinator talk is planned for early June.

Open Space: Development of a possible Master Plan for the Parks and funds needed to support it is underway.

8. New Business:

Bicycle Transport: The possibility of developing a temporary pop-up bike lane on one of the main routes between Madison and Chatham was discussed. It would create an opportunity to encourage people to travel by means other than a car. Requests for involvement would include the mayor and police as well as asks from local bike shops and enthusiastic cyclists. Also, this might move forward the need to provide the town with a complete list of what signage is needed re: bikes.

Site Plan Review Help: Meredith Jones, a new resident in Madison responded to a request on Green Madison Facebook for volunteer help with reviewing site plans with the MEC. She has a civil engineering and construction background. She will be helping with current conversations around the Cook Ave site plan development.

Library Grounds Landscaping: A meeting was held with some MEC members and key library leadership on how to make the library (outside) property supportive of native plants. Bob Vogel will join the next discussion re: environmental sensitivity, water runoff the existing swale and any DEP guidelines. It was noted that Brett Cheadle's (former MEC intern) work on water runoff has been helpful to the MEC.

Rain Barrels: A workshop will be held on rain barrels on May 15th at the Madison Community Arts Center by the current watershed ambassador. Purchase of some supplies is needed. More PR to be sent out for the event.

Submitted by Ellen Kranefuss