

Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes August 15, 2023

Chairperson Kathi Caccavale called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting of the Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee (SMAC) was provided by transmitting a copy of the meeting notice to the Madison Eagle and Morris County Daily Record, posting a copy on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the Hartley Dodge Memorial, and filing a copy in the office of the Clerk. This notice was made available to members of the general public.”

The following members acknowledged their presence:

Kathleen Caccavale, Chairperson/Regular Member

Peter Fried, Resident/Regular Member

Angelique Devost, Resident/Regular Member

Rachel Ehrlich, Borough Council Liaison/Regular Member

Grace Kim, Board of Education Liaison/Regular Member

Mary Ellen Hennessy-Jones, Resident/Regular Member

Pam Hogan, Resident/Regular Member

Deanna Schmidt, MEC Liaison, Resident/Regular Member

Absent:

Lisa Jordan, Resident/Regular Member

July minutes were approved.

Review of Open Action Items

Action Item: Grace will continue to work with the School Administration regarding climate curriculum.

Action Item: Peter Fried needs North Jersey Green volunteer writers. Candidate ideas:

- Grace and Pam will discuss with Claire the idea of a student intern to help with the House and Garden Tour and also write an article about it for the paper.
- Article about EV Police Cars
- Article about the Tree Equity Score, Tree Canopy and the need for every town to have a tree ordinance with enforcement

Action Item: Grace will ask Pam Yousey to schedule a meeting with Peter and Rachel regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy at the schools.

Schools Report - Grace Kim

- Grace discussed efforts to get more kids to walk, bike and bus to school rather than taking a car or being driven.
- She also discussed working with the administration to better define a climate curriculum. (Peter provided a link to a climate teacher in the Chatham School system.)
- The group discussed the governor's initiative and incentives for electric school busses.

Report from Council - Rachel Ehrlich

- Rachel summarized Jim Burnet's 8/14/23 presentation to council about Time-of-Use electric rates and the voluntary pilot program Madison is starting.
- Rachel also summarized Madison's decision to buy a new hybrid police supervisor's car, a new internal combustion Police patrol car, and an electric zero-turn mower.

Climate Action Report - Rachel Ehrlich

- Rachel summarized a report to be made to council with 5 new recommendations from the Climate Team

Report from MEC - Kathleen Caccavale for Claire Whitcomb

- Claire is asking for more environmentally sensitive volunteers for the planning board.

Report from Shade Tree - Kathleen Caccavale

- Kathi summarized a recent report on Madison's "Tree Equity Score", and the possible use for that as a tool to determine where we need to plant more trees. The report can be found at: <https://www.treeequityscore.org/methodology>
- There was extensive discussion about our tree ordinance, tree-cutting permits, what actions to take and penalties to call for when trees are cut down without permits. The state now requires every town to have a tree ordinance.

SJ/PSEG GI Grant Report – Pam Hogan - 2 site walks took place with the Rutgers team on 7/26 (attended by Borough staff members Bob Vogel and Ken O'Brien) and 8/9. All members of the Project team and SMAC were invited to attend and notified of progress.

Review of Sustainable Jersey Action Status: See attached status sheets. As in 2023, the first deadline for submission of SJ actions in 2024 will be in February; therefore attention needs to be paid early.

Review of Bottle Hill Day Plans - Peter Fried. We discussed plans that include:

- Two EVs: Sara Fischer's F-150 and a Borough Bolt
- Daddy Matty's chef preparing chili on an induction cooktop powered by the F-150
- Participation by Ciel Power
- Participation by NJ DEP's Clean Energy Program

The next [SMAC meeting](#) will be on September 19 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 P.M.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Peter Fried.

Sustainable Jersey Actions – Status/Expiration Dates

Must Revise

Currently none

Expired 12/31/2021

Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach - **possible?** *Check with Kirsten Wallenstein*

Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach – per above

Natural Resources Inventory – targeting 2024

Easement Inventory and Outreach – Lisa/co-lead (previous lead still lives in Madison)

Easement Inspections and Evaluations – Lisa/co-lead

New Actions Planned for 2024

Green Building Policy/Resolution – *Rachel Ehrlich*

Municipal Onsite Solar System - Peter

Make Your Town Solar Friendly - Peter

Solar Outreach - Peter

Green Cleaning Products & Motorized Cleaning Equipment – Mary Ellen/Kathi

Local Health Assessment and Action Plan – Kathi/Joe (BOH)

Rollover Actions

Municipal Water Story (CAC 2023 Recommendation) – consultant? 2025?

Complete & Green Streets for All Policy - *Kathi*

Water Conservation Ordinance – *Deanna Schmidt/Kathi/Rachel/Claire*

Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance – Kathi (*new Inland Flood Hazard rules require revised ordinance within one year of 7/17/23*)

Expires 12/31/2023

Create Green Team – Kathi?

Energy Tracking and Management – Peter

Fleet Inventory- Peter

Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles – Peter

Community Gardens – Pete

Making Farmers Markets Accessible – Mary Ellen

Innovative Community Project 1 (Hidden Figures) – need new project

Innovative Community Project 3 (FODF) – need new project

Bicycle and Pedestrian Audits

Environmental Commission – Deanna

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review - Deanna

Community Forestry Management Plan and NJUCF Accreditation – Judy Honohan
Tree Planting Programs – Judy Honohan
Green Maintenance Equipment and Materials – Mary Ellen/Kathi
Recycled Materials and Composting - Angelique
Municipal Communications Strategy – Michael P.
Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government – Michael P.
Improve Public Engagement in Planning and Zoning – Michael P
Online Municipal Public Service Systems – Michael P
Digitizing Public Information – Michael P
Food Waste - Angelique

Expires 12/31/2024

Establish a Creative Team
Creative Assets Inventory
Utilizing Your Creative Assets
Green Fair
Electric Vehicle Community Outreach
Heat Island Assessment (& Mitigation Plan)
Emergency Communication Planning
Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies
Buy Fresh/Buy Local
Farmers Market
Green Building Education
Create a Green Development Checklist
Upgrade/Retrofit-Light Pollution
Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement
Building Healthier Communities
Innovative 2 – Climate Action Template
Sustainable Land Use Pledge
Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Improvement Projects
Tree Hazard Inventory
Green Grounds & Maintenance Policy
Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution (retired action)
Buy Local Campaign
Support Local Businesses
Tree Maintenance Programs
Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal
Recycling and Waste Reduction & Compliance
Community Paper Shredding Day
Recycling Depot
Backyard Composting

Grass – Cut It and Leave It Program
Materials Reuse Program

Expires 12/31/2025

Municipal Commitments to Support Arts and Creative Culture
Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities [action updated in 2022]
Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
Community Carbon Footprint (retired action)
Extreme Temperature Event Plan
Safe Routes to Schools
Tobacco Free Community
Green Business Recognition Program
Recycled Copy Paper

Expires 12/31/2026

Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly
Green Infrastructure Planning
Best Practices for Local Boards of Health
Healthy Homes Inspection & Training
Climate Action Plan
Community Asset Mapping

Expires 12/31/2027

Green Infrastructure Implementation
Effective Parking Management
Municipal Carbon Footprint

Expires 12/31/2029

Open Space Plans

Expires 12/31/30

Historic Preservation Element (retired action)
Transit-Oriented Development Supportive Zoning

Does Not Expire

Environmental Assessment Ordinance
Tree Protection Ordinance

Possible Future Actions

Green Building Training

New Construction (Municipalities that achieve a recognized green building standard when constructing new municipal buildings and facilities can earn 20 points toward Sustainable Jersey certification. – Will our AH qualify?)

Integrating Health into Municipal Decision Making

Bicycle and or Pedestrian Plan – updated plan (must be within 10 yrs; adopted plan 2005)

Energy Assistance Outreach (action currently suspended by SJ)

Community Design for All Ages

Green Challenges (*would be great to develop for Bottle Hill Day, Green Fair, or thru-school campaign*)

Diversity on Board and Commissions

Buy Electricity from a Renewable Source

Other Actions Marked as Planned

Diversity on Boards & Commissions

Lead Education and Outreach Programs

Upgrade/Retrofit-Water Conservation

Integrating Health into Local Decision Making

Actions Submitted in 2023 and Under Review (update: actions were subsequently approved)

Community Education & Outreach

Community Equity and Diversity Profile

Environmental Justice in Planning & Zoning

Water Conservation Education Program

Non-Mandated Materials Recycling