

Madison Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 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, Anne Huber, Joan Maccari, Brian Monahan, Ann Huber, Kirsten Wallenstein, Ellen Kranefuss, Claire Whitcomb
4. **Absent:** Trina Mallik,
5. **Guests:** John Hoover as BC Liaison, LeaAnn Nguyen, Meredith Jones, Lisa Jordan
6. **Events:** All previously scheduled public environmental events sponsored or supported by the MEC have been cancelled and/or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

7. **Continuing Business:**

Eco Garden Tour: The event was held on Sunday September 12th and was a great success with very active involvement by all who attended. It was a very educational and motivating experience. The quality of the questions asked was excellent and reflected the crowd's interest in take home lessons to apply in their own spaces. All handouts were made available on the Sustainable Madison website.

ERI: Two students in Lisa Jordan's Geographical Systems class at Drew are working on contributing positively to the Environmental Resource Inventory with graphs and visuals. LeaAnn Nguyen presented for Drew. Specifically, the group looked at heat island effects through different seasons using satellite thermal scan data. They found considerable heat effects on Main Street as compared to the area at Drew. The Drew Forest and similar spaces can significantly mitigate the hot spots in town such as Main St. Their work has implications for how Madison makes effective use of land.

Site Plan Reviews: Reviews continue and the Zoning Board has taken note of MECs enhanced comments on site plans; MEC will continue its due diligence on site plan reviews as much as possible to provide important environmental templates for future projects.

Drew Forest: Progress is being made and the town is working hard on developing a solution to the potential land redistribution and development of all or part of the Drew Forest.

Shade Tree Plantings: 22 trees are being planted on the back of the meadow for a sound barrier; 120 taken down (Ash) and 105 planted. Plans for more: 30 in the fall and 100+ in the spring

Spotted Lantern Fly: There are increasing numbers being seen in Madison. Shade Tree is considering a systemic for trees that are popular landing spots to control the explosive growth.

8. New Business:

Bottle Hill Day: This years handouts will include information on more sustainable yard options, which include fall leaf management. Ellen and Bridget will adapt some checklists compiled by the Advocates for Transforming Landscape Practices - NJ (ATL-NJ). Checklists will be available on the Sustainable Madison website. Claire will send an email for volunteer sign-ups for the MEC table at Bottle Hill.

Energy Efficiency Day: Slated for October 6th. Kirsten will post tips on social media.

Composter Sale: Vendor and product offering to shift for next sale of composters; A two-chamber tumbler will be offered. More details to come. Grow-it-Green may offer some education in the spring.

Upcoming Talks: Claire W will give a talk to the Rotary on September 23 on MEC activities and the value they add to changing the environmental landscape in Madison; Anne H will be doing a talk on September 30 on how sustainability is woven into elements of the Master Plan. Areas such as Land Use, Historic Preservation and Community Connection will be addressed.

Newspaper Articles: Trina M. is developing an article on voting for climate action oriented candidates; Ellen K. has developed an article with a few ATL-NJ members on concerns with gas powered lawn and leaf equipment.