

## **Environmental Commission – Borough of Pennington**

**Monday, June 16, 2025 | 7:30 PM**

**Location: Zoom**

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### **1. Call to Order**

### **2. Roll Call**

Andrew Seeder, Nell Haughton, Emily Ott, Jim Fuger, Nancy

Fishman, Joann Held, Brian Friedlich, Andy Jackson

Absent: Kieran Johns, Dan Rubenstein

### **3. Review and Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2025 Meeting**

**Moved Joann, Second Nancy**

### **4. Announcements**

- **2024 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report Submission**
  - Submitted to BC last week. Have not heard feedback yet
- **Wells Fargo Redevelopment Public Meeting**
  - Summary of public feedback and outcomes
    - Concern was voiced by a number of residents on the number of housing units, safety, traffic impacts, the shape of the building and the plan for exits onto 31.
    - Boro controls zoning approval, there will be another open planning board meeting for comments
- **Congratulations to Nell!**
  - Recipient of the Zone Conservation Award from the Stony Brook Garden Club of America (Andrew)
  - Instrumental in getting “native plant month” passed in New Jersey. It was necessary to go through the whole legislative process and initiate a full law.

- **Chair Update**

- Personal update from Kieran

- **Upcoming Events**

- Sustainable Landscaping Seminar by ANJEC
  - great series.... artificial turf, electric leaf blowers, and Chris O was very informative on green Infrastructure

## **5. Public Comment, no public in attendance**

## **6. Strategic Projects**

- **Arboretum Project Update** (Joann, Emily, Andrew)

- Reflections on last Saturday's dedication event

Great event, Joann represented PEC and the Mayor Davy and Kit Chandler spoke.
- Next steps: QR code ordering & installation (Eagle Scouts), / Some delay to get the vendor registered for the Boro, but this should happen in the next 10 days and then six weeks for production
- Native plantings at signage areas (Bountiful Gardens)
- Development of bulletin board displays
- Shout out to boy scouts that worked hard on this. "A huge thanks goes to Troop 22, Will Carter, and Jaihan John (Kieran's son) for all their hard work on the QR system and bulletin boards."
  - Is there a way to thank them publicly? Maybe an article in a newspaper
- Clean up days in June

- **Community Energy Plan Update** (Brian & Carbon Neutral Workgroup)

- Progress updates on the plan and upcoming steps. Coordination with Hopewell Township (they also have a grant) Planning to coordinate on administrative requirements. Discussing what to ask the consultants to do

and which consultants to use. One firm is favored but have not made a selection.

## **7. Community Engagement**

- **Community Conversations: Greenscaping** (Jim and Nell)

After some discussion it was agreed that the next session will concentrate on “Greenscaping & Lawn Alternatives - Transforming traditional gardens & lawns into vibrant, biodiverse greenescapes that benefit both people and nature” Topics to be covered are:

- Lawn Alternatives (e.g. Wildflower Meadows)
- Rain gardens
- Rain barrels
- Natives versus invasives
- Alternatives to lawn chemicals (e.g. Pesticides, Weedkiller and Fertilizer)

Briefly mentioned will be NWF, and noise pollution from leaf blowers, Supporting wildlife and stormwater management will be saved for the next conversations-

Emily will reach out to Samantha Bean to ask her to speak, and Nancy will reach out to Mike VanClef with the same request

- **NWF Community Wildlife Habitat Program** (Emily)

- 130 certification points have been acquired, the Hopewell Valley 225 for full certification
- Emily will be developing a reel on NWF and will include an example of a yard that has received the NWF certification.

## **8. Communications**

- **General Communications Update** (Nancy and Emily)

- Two email blasts went out this month, one on NWF and one on the Arboretum.
- Ideas for the next Borough newsletter are: 1. Reminder about the noise ordinance, 2. Info about September Community Conversation 3. Mention about the Community Energy Plan

## **9. General updated**

Green Team will be promoting Plastic Free July with daily updates on how to live plastic free.

Open Space - The Open Space Committee is looking for new green space that might be available, ideas welcome.

- Planning Committee -There will be a public meeting on the approved housing plan. The meeting will be on June 24th and a discussion of the potential redevelopment of the Delaware and RT 31 site will also take place.
  - Landfill - garbage needs to be removed - it would cost 3 million to move it to a safe secure landfill or 2 million to cap it. It would be about 3 acres of land. Mercer County has a group that helps address complex environmental problems. Andy is reaching out in order to see what help they may be able to offer.

#### **10. Adjournment 8:56pm**

**So moved by Jim Seconded by Nell**

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 21, 2025**