

WWT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 9, 2025

The January 2025 meeting of the WWT Environmental Commission was held on Thursday, January 9, 2025 via Zoom with Ephraim Buhks calling the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, a notice of this meeting's date, time, place and agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Members:	E. Buhks; E. Gordon; L. Katz; I. Singh	
Liaison:	F. Guzik	Advisor: D. Parris
Guests:	Meena Tomar, WWT Resident	Council Liaison: Andrea Mandel Poornima Gupta, WWT Resident

RESOLUTIONS: E. Buhks inquired about the status of the resolution, which was drafted and requested by the EC at the December 2024 meeting. F. Guzik stated that the resolutions appointing the commission to the green team and authorizing the EC to file the Sustainable Jersey Recertification application have been submitted to the Township Council for approval at the January 27, 2025 meeting. A proposal for professional services to assist in the recertification application process has been received from D. Dobromilsky. It is anticipated to have this contract approved by the Township Council at the January 27, 2025 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Meena Tomar, WWT resident, introduced herself. She is attending an EC meeting for the first time to learn more about the topics and issues addressed.

Poornima Gupta, WWT Resident, stated she attended an EC meeting last year and would like to offer her assistance in submitting the Sustainable Jersey Recertification application, and she is very familiar with the process. She provided some additional timeline details for the application process. E. Buhks thanked her for attending and her offer of assistance. He invited her to become a member of the Green Team and expressed interest in utilizing her knowledge and skills for the Sustainable Jersey Recertification, if applicable. F. Guzik asked her to submit her contact information to him so he can provide information or discuss projects with her in the future.

CONTINUING BUSINESS: Project Review/Update

Community Solar – L. Katz stated there were no substantial updates to provide at this time. He will provide any new information as the project continues to progress. E. Buhks inquired if the Parking Authority had any updates on their solar installation project. L. Katz stated there were no proposals received in response to the rebid for the solar canopy project. He stated there is a beautification project beginning for the train station area, including plantings, repairs, and painting the train station. They will be installing additional signs, made of recycled materials, around the parking lots to identify each by number.

Student/Scout Projects – H. Shankar was unable to attend the meeting. An update will be provided at a future meeting.

Planning Board – A. Baig was unable to attend the meeting. He will provide an update next month.

Township Council Update – A. Mandel reported that the township council will have their annual reorganization meeting on January 15, 2025 at noon. Anyone interested in attending are welcome. It will also be broadcast online for anyone who cannot attend in person. The township has continued to review affordable housing numbers provided by the Department of Community Affairs and generated a report to determine an alternative

number to provide to the State in response. The Council is currently exploring the potential to decontaminate the old school bus depot located at the corner of Washington and Wallace Roads. Proposals from companies will be reviewed to determine the extent of the work needed and the potential cost involved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 2024 L. Katz motioned; I. Singh seconded;
Minutes were approved as presented.

Natural Landscape & Lawns – E. Gordon shared a presentation of the information he has gathered and presented previously on the alternatives to a normal lawn. The presentation consisted of the cost to install or maintain, environmental incentives and disadvantages, and additional details to consider for each type of lawn. He suggested holding seminars to help educate residents as to the different options available and the advantages or incentives that could benefit them. He also recommended that the commission develop recommendations that can be forwarded to the mayor and administration with suggestions for regulations, maintenance and enforcement. I. Singh suggested incorporating photos in his presentation to provide examples of properly maintained natural lawns. E. Buhks suggested posting the presentation on the EC website to provide a generalized guideline for any resident considering the installation or conversion to a natural lawn.

Science News Discussion - E. Buhks summarized a recent topic under discussion on developing an international agreement on plastic pollution. He continues to encourage other EC members to share information or articles on environmental topics.

D. Parris reported that he has received permission to change the exhibition at the Schenk Farm. The new exhibit will be based on archaeology expected in a 19th-century farmstead and will be presented at their next open house. F. Guzik offered to promote the new exhibit and open house on the township Facebook page if D. Parris can provide pictures and a small summary.

E. Buhks invited all EC members to attend the upcoming Martin Luther King Day event at Liquid Church on January 20, 2025 from 1-3pm. He will be attending with E. Gordon, who will again be sharing his photos taken while attending the March on Washington in Washington DC.

There being no further business, E. Gordon motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by L. Katz.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Tomaro, Administrative Secretary
WWT Environmental Commission