



Long Branch Green Team Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2025

Call to order:

- Meeting was called to order at 8:09 PM.

Attendees:

- Annette Benanti, Enis Bengul, Kathy Buchan, Rich Catanese, Manju Chidambaram, Phil Falcone, Gerry Lingner, Nan Simon

Old Business:

▪ **Old Business:**

- Community Events:
 - Debrief on Arbor Day
 - Positives – Tree and Art Tour, Rock Painting, 150 trees given away, snacks
 - Can skip – MCF Truck, Educational Materials
 - Agreed to try Jackson Woods again despite wind, keep event to tree giveaway and park tours with snacks.
 - Move the Educational Event to a different day, possibly a tree-focused event at the Senior Center. Faith to organize educational event with Manju and Annette; suggested the fall
- Water refill stations – 7 priority locations identified and shared with the city. Phil is following up with Ocean Place and Wave Hotels. Further prioritized top 3 as Pier Village, West End and Manhasset Park.
- Recycling:
 - Styrofoam recycling – Targeting early September and January events – Manju to come up with dates
 - Sneakers & Plastic Film – OceanFirst Bank is running an internal campaign for sneaker recycling this month – sent them four bags.
- Park Restoration:
 - Ross Lake – Native Plant Society Garden almost complete; fundraiser using plants from Ross Lake seeds to be held later this year.
 - Jackson Woods – Rumson Garden Club Native Plant Garden completed; baby ducks born; new plants to be added to Carbon Sink Garden; Mark's burlap snake coming to park; Rumson Girl Scout Bench to be installed; on June 12 a Jackson Woods tour will be conducted for book club which won this tour in a Monmouth Conservation Foundation fundraising auction last fall
- Green Business Recognition Program – Healthy Eats was recognized on 4/22 during their new business ribbon cutting. Still trying to get Whitechapel scheduled.

▪ **New Business:**

- Plans for 2026 – Nan will send around Suzan Cole's information about a video contest for kids on environmental topics. She would like us to look into this for next year. Faith can help us connect with Ocean Township to find out more about what's involved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM