



Long Branch Environmental Commission & Green Team Meeting Minutes September 15, 2025



Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Attendees:

GT: Annette Benanti, Enis Bengul, Kathy Buchan, Rich Catanese, Manju Chidambaram, Suzan Cole, Mark Davis, Harry Dellane, Gerry Lingner, Damian Rios, Nan Simon, Faith Teitelbaum

EC: Faith Teitelbaum, Nan Simon, Rich Catanese, Rich Lee, Chris Boglio, Glen Rassas, Manju Chidambaram

Guests: Abel Gomez, Director of Community and Economic Development

Environmental Commission

City Council Liaison Report:

- Nothing to report

Planning Board Liaison Report:

- Minor Developments to be heard this week. During a prior meeting, the condo development on 2nd, in the parking lot of Star of the Sea was approved

Approval of Minutes:

- Deferred to next meeting

Treasurer's Report:

- Received the Mega Greenhouse tree containers for Jackson Woods
- Cancelled the potting soil
- Air pruning box for Elinore Ave is at the Belmont Ave shop

Current Business:

- Advertise for EC and GT members
- Green Infrastructure update
 - Avenel Ave rain garden – will be a small rain garden that the schools will dig out and volunteers will plant. Attempting to involve students. Tentative date is October 11. When confirmed will reach out for volunteers. May also include Boy Scouts.
- Tree Committee:
 - Elks' decision – wait until the spring
 - Troutman Park trees – working on ordering for planting early November with contractor performing the planting
 - Tree Removal Application and Ordinance



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- There are differences in how fees in lieu of planting are handled between the ordinances for Major Development and all other. It is recommended that this be harmonized such that fees are levied per each tree NOT planted
- Need to get our CEUs for NJUCF certification.

Upcoming events:

- Ross Lake Park Curated Tours and fundraiser. Sept 21. 11-3PM
- Jackson Woods Tree Walk tentatively set for Oct 19
- GI Training – September 30, 2025. LB Library
- Suzan Cole rain garden planting – Oct 18
- Patten Woods will be evaluated for a rain garden this week

New Business:

- Leaf Blower Restriction Ordinance
 - Have been implemented in many towns in NJ. Will share sample ordinances at a future meeting
- Sample letter to residents about trees will be shared by Abel
- 2025-26 Meeting dates:
 - Oct 20
 - Nov 17
 - Dec 15 - OnLine
 - Jan 12 - OnLine
 - Feb – no meeting
 - March 16
 - April 20
 - May 18
 - June 15
 - July 20
 - August 17

Adjournment at 8:04 pm



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Green Team

Administrative:

- Leadership discussion – Nan requested someone to take over GT leadership
- Project ownership discussion
 - Sneaker Recycling – Kathy (in Jan)
 - Plastic film recycling – Nan
 - Arbor Day – Suzan Cole and Manju
 - Green Business Recognition Program – Volunteer Needed
 - Maintaining Truax Park Trees – Gerry Lingner

Old Business:

- Long Branch Day – October 11 – Damian is coordinating; he will be working with Alicia and Suzan. One additional volunteer would be nice. Nan will assist with PO.
- Recycling education – waiting for City to provide go ahead.
- Styrofoam recycling – Manju to reach out to Jaye to select a date.
- Park Restoration:
 - Ross Lake – Micro forest started
 - Jackson Woods – many volunteer events scheduled during the Fall; regular work days are on Tuesday and Friday mornings
- Energy Planning Grant was approved, awaiting go ahead from the city
- Solar Application App now available in NJ – Solar App Plus avail in App Store

New Business:

- Truax Field Workday – Date to be determined – Gerry to decide after taking over management
 - Estimate 3 hours, caging (3), tree wrap (2), pruning, weeding
 - EC to fund materials? (~\$100); bring your own tools / gloves
- Plant Based Treaty – will be presented during October meeting

Adjournment at 8:35 PM