

BOROUGH OF OAKLAND
Sustainable Oakland Green Team
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Phone: (201) 337-8111
Website: www.oakland-nj.org

September 26, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Oakland Sustainable Oakland Green Team opened on Tuesday September 26, 2023, at 7:35 p.m. in the Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland, N.J. 07436.

ROLL CALL: Present: Chair Alison Fleeson, Brian Reilly, William Eilert, Steve Panosian, Council Liaison Eric Kulmala, Borough Representative Michael Carelli, SOGT Secretary Laura Saunders.

Absent: Andrea Levy, Pat Weiman, Ron Petherbridge, Carrie Terwilliger.

On motion of Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Panosian, all absent members are excused.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Chair Alison Fleeson opened for public comment.

No public present.

Chair Alison Fleeson closed the public session.

OLD BUSINESS

STYROFOAM DRIVE:

It was announced that the next Styrofoam Drive is scheduled for September 30, 2023.

ROOTS FOR RIVERS @ ROOSEVELT BLVD. MAINTENANCE:

Ms. Fleeson brought up the need for annual maintenance to be done on this property.

FIRST SUNDAY HIKE:

The First Sunday Hikes are scheduled for October 1st (to be led by Mr. Panosian), November 5th, and December 4th. The January 1st hike needs to be added to the calendar. Ms. Levy is assigned the task of putting together a 2024 calendar. Ms. Fleeson will talk to the Acting Borough Clerk to post a new flyer to the SOGT Facebook page.

COMMUNITY GARDEN:

A new year for the Community Garden needs to be announced. As people requesting plots come in, Ms. Fleeson should be told so she can assign the plots. Someone needs to take the lead on the Community Garden. Carrie Terwilliger was in charge, but she is in California.

SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY:

It was noted that this is the fourth year Oakland has reached Silver Certification with 420 points. Ms. Fleeson mentioned everyone should go through the packet she distributed and see what else can be applied for to increase Oakland's points and work towards Gold Certification.

COMMUNITY SOLAR:

Ron Petherbridge was absent from the meeting and unable to provide an update. Ms. Fleeson is to call Rockland Electric to find out where they are in the process of providing alternate energy sources to the residents and borough.

NEW BUSINESS:

SOGT PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2024: Scheduled on the fourth Tuesday of every month except August & December held at 7:30p.m. at the Oakland Senior Center, as follows:

January 23
February 27
March 26
April 23
May 28
June 25
July 23
September 24
October 22
November 26

On motion of Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Panosian, the 2024 SOGT Meeting Schedule is approved.

ALL IN FAVOR.

STYROFOAM DATES 2024:

The Styrofoam Drive is tentatively scheduled for the second Saturdays starting in January and will be offered quarterly. The advertising needs to be redesigned to add clear bags. It was further discussed that the Environmental Committee should get involved and Mr. Eilert volunteered to discuss this with them.

GOALS 2024:

- Increase Interest in Solar Power: Focus the emphasis on solar power and build off this momentum. Ms. Fleeson will follow up with Rockland Electric.
- Improve Water Quality: Work with the Environmental Commission Chair, Lee Haymon, who is very knowledgeable about water issues.
- Management of the Spotted Lantern Fly: The following ideas were discussed to control their population:
 - Use herbicides to kill the *Tree of Heaven* only
 - DPW can get rid of 10" diameter trees on town property
 - Pesticides can be put around specific trees

BUDGET 2024:

- Styrofoam Drive – only pay for the tipping costs
- Rain Barrels - come out of the DPW Budget
- Education – It was agreed to budget \$500 for education
A discussion ensued on how to get 2 points for education initiatives – it was suggested that the Green Team educate residents on the new water filtration system. Councilman Kulmala also suggested offering a DYI solar panel information session for residents.
- Green Fair money
- Secretary Stipend - \$1,200/year

WASTE TRANSFER STATION:

Councilman Kulmala made the Board aware of Bergen County's push to put in place a construction waste transfer station. A discussion ensued regarding the pollutants from the construction materials including oily dirt and what negative effects that would have on the Borough.

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY:

Ms. Fleeson mentioned the policy has been put together and needs to be brought in front of the Council. The policy includes bike lanes, safety procedures for walkways and updating the downtown area, etc.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Eilert, the meeting is adjourned.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Saunders
SOGT Secretary