

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



JOSEPH BARRIS, PP, AICP, CFM
Director of Planning

WILMA MORRISSEY
Council Chairman

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the MONMOUTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Thursday, October 01, 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Wilma Morrissey, France Karras, Paul Johnson, John Vig Jennifer DiLorenzo, Scott Thompson, David Kostka

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Amber Mallm, Linda Brennen, AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador-Samantha LaRocca

Public Present: Jeanette Falotico, Laura Landau,

- 3. REVIEW OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the September minutes. Ms. Karras made a motion to approve the September minutes and Ms. Morrissey seconded. With no objections, the September minutes were adopted.

4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. **Chairman-** Ms. Morrissey shared various articles. The articles covered various topics including a driverless vehicle pilot project in Arlington Texas. Mr. Thompson recalled a recent documentary that that covered the topic. The Council also discussed an article on flying taxis from Uber and Wisk Aero shown at a consumer electronics convention. The Council agreed this technology does not sound feasible in the near future. Another article described an initiative to increase electric buses in Camden, members thought that this goal sounds realistic. The next article covered EPA's Septic Smart Week 2020 which encourages best management practices for maintaining septic systems. The Council discussed their positive experiences with septic systems. The last article described Uber's goal to use all electric vehicles by 2030. Ms. Morrissey mentioned the passage of the plastic ban legislation, which would ban the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags and single use carry-out paper-bags. Ms. Morrissey said some recent articles covered pros and cons of the Act including concern that the Act would negatively affect the local economy during COVID-19. However, the Council discussed that the Act would not take effect until 18-months from adoption. The Council also discussed limitations using reusable bags at certain stores right now due to health concerns.

B. **Planning Board-** Ms. DiLorenzo recalled the September Planning Board meeting. She said the meeting was held in person with social distancing precautions. At the meeting

heard updates from Ms. Brennen on the JLUS III funding. They passed a resolution accepting Monmouth County Profile which shows trends and information on each municipality, which is available [here](#).

C. **Staff-** Ms. Mallm described the October Dates to Remember. Ms. Mallm mentioned the Division of Planning is hosting a webinar to help the public learn about the amended Stormwater Management Rules, adopted March 2020.

D. **Legislation-** Ms. Mallm reported that Bill S349 was signed into law, which will require developers to offer electric vehicle charging stations in certain new home construction. She mentioned another Bill recently signed into law, Bill S232, which will require NJDEP to evaluate public health stressors of certain facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications. Ms. Mallm said Bill S2607 was approved in the Senate and referred to the assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee, if adopted it would require municipal masterplan land use elements to include a climate change related hazard vulnerability assessment.

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Webinar Planning & Eco-Tips-** Ms. Mallm said plans were underway for a two part webinar series to occur at the end of the month. Speakers include Karen Walzer, to discuss Jersey Friendly Yards and Steve Rettke to discuss integrated pest management (IMP) and the Spotted Lantern Fly and Emerald Ash Beetle. Then on October 29, Ken Thoman will discuss invasive management at the County Parks, and Kyle Clonan will discuss hydrilla management at the Manasquan Reservoir. She shared a draft event flyer and mentioned she is working on revising an Eco-Tips brochure.

B. **JLUS III-** Ms. Brennen reminded the Council that the Division of Planning is pursuing a Joint Land Use Study, Phase III. This study will include two separate projects, one to complete further design for resilience projects outlined in JLUS II and the other to advance zoning goals from JLUS I. Staff members are currently drafting RFPs.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Wall Township Receives ANJEC Award/Potential Future Programs-** Ms. Morrissey reported that the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee received a 2020 ANJEC award for their series of environmental articles. Ms. Morrissey is also the Chair of the WTEAC. See the attached press release announcing WTEAC's award. Ms. Morrissey asked if the Monmouth County Environmental Council would be eligible for an award as well. Staff said they were unsure of the ANJEC award requirements. Ms. Morrissey then asked if the Council if they would be interested in holding a photo contest. Mr. Johnson asked if a poster contest for schools is feasible, Ms. Brennen said they county used to run an earth day contest however they were directed to stop focusing their efforts there.

B. **Introduction to 2020-2021 AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador Samantha LaRocca-** Ms. LaRocca introduced herself as a free resource for environmental education, and environmental stewardship projects such as clean-ups. Samantha also described her work collecting water quality data.

6. MEMBER REPORTS:

- Mr. Kostka reported that Colts Neck passed a resolution to apply for involvement with Sustainable Jersey; next they will appoint a Green Team. Ms. Brennen said that when

Colts Neck assembles a green Team they should reach out to join the Sustainable Jersey Monmouth County Hub.

- Ms. Karras reported that Save Coastal Wildlife is holding a seining program at Sandy Hook during the full moon on October 3.
 - Mr. Vig asked Ms. LaRocca to provide examples of the types of subjects she can cover in her presentations. Ms. LaRocca said she can educate others on benthic macroinvertebrate identification, or on watersheds and non-point source pollution and point source pollution using an Enviroscape. He asked if she can provide a presentation to the Council on a later date.
 - Mr. Johnson mentioned increased bird watching due to people staying at home and mentioned the bird houses he creates are great for introducing children to bird watching.
 - Mr. Thompson welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and described the Council's work. Mr. Thompson agreed its importance to provide environmental education to children to help individual grow up with an environmental lifestyle. Oceanic Bridge work is open for comment until October 16. October 10th Clean Ocean Action is holding its surfing contest on Seven President's Beach on.
 - Ms. DiLorenzo mentioned her involvement in swimming groups and said she has seen increased populations of dolphins and fish. She acknowledged the increased biking and hiking and practice of outdoor activities. She mentioned Monmouth beach is increasing biking and pedestrian areas.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Morrissey opened for public comment; Ms. Falotico thanked the Council for their time.
8. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mr. Kostka made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Driverless Transportation to Return to Arlington, Texas

The city of Arlington is gathering public opinion on their latest driverless vehicle pilot program called RAPID. The program is funded by a \$1.7M grant from the Federal Transportation Administration.

BY KAILEY BROUSSARD, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM / SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

(TNS) — Driverless transportation will return to Arlington in March as the city continues testing best uses for the burgeoning technology.

As city staff and council members hash out details of a possible citywide expansion of the on-demand rideshare service Via, planners are gathering data and public opinion for Arlington's latest autonomous vehicle pilot program, RAPID. The program is funded through a \$1.7 million grant through the Federal Transportation Administration, and the city has partnered with Via, UT Arlington and autonomous vehicle startup May Mobility to launch the program in March.

This spring, people in downtown and around UT Arlington who utilize Via may have the option of taking a driverless vehicle to their destination. Riders whose trips fall within downtown may be asked if they would like to utilize RAPID. The fleet will include a wheelchair-accessible vehicle and free rides for university students.

"We're hoping that it feels easy and natural to the riders and to help build acceptance of autonomous vehicle technologies," said Ann Foss, the city's principal planner.

That acceptance, she said, will help residents adapt as localities increasingly embrace technological advancements.

"It's likely there will be more and more autonomous technology being deployed in the future," she said. "We want to help our residents understand how that works and feel more comfortable about that technology."

Arlington's trust-building efforts started in 2017 when the city launched Milo, an off-street shuttle that bused people to entertainment district venues from parking areas. From late 2018 to May 2019, the city offered Drive.ai, an on-road van service that transported some 1,400 travelers around the entertainment district on 760 trips, according to city numbers.

Each program has yielded ridership data and feedback on user experience, Foss said, that helps the city find the best use for driverless vehicles. The next step in the city's experiment, she said, is to integrate services with its existing rideshare program. Via

currently covers 41% of the city, including downtown, but the Arlington City Council will vote later this year to expand coverage to the entire city starting in mid-January.

"We're hopeful that this pilot will be really useful in seeing how the technology integrates," Foss said.

Texas cities seek best practices for autonomous tech

Jorge Cruz-Aedo, president of the Texas Transit Association and Corpus Christi Transportation Authority CEO, said cities must seek innovative transportation needs — especially helping people get beyond bus or train stops to their final destinations.

"Transportation as we know it today ... is a changing world," he said. "The demand for public transportation is beyond just going down that main arterial in your hometown."

Discussions about driverless vehicles have intensified in recent years across Texas. Cities such as Austin, San Antonio and Houston have sought information on or pursued autonomous vehicle programs of their own. Before Drive.ai launched in Arlington, the city of Frisco fielded the company during its one-year pilot program.

Cruz-Aedo's south Texas city launched Surge, an off-street shuttle that transports people around the in-town Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The transit authority shares the data the pilot program collects with the university, as well as analysts in Malaysia, to understand the program's uses.

"It's kind of a global test so to speak because it involves other parties that use the data to help us manage the system," he said.

The conversation isn't limited to public transportation, either: Cities throughout Dallas-Fort Worth have adopted numerous programs utilizing automation for package delivery, freight transportation and traffic light moderation.

"It's not just the vehicles. It's the whole spectrum of things from data to communications to autonomous vehicles and new business models," said Thomas Bamonte, senior program manager for North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Arlington, Bamonte said, is regional, state and national leader in connected and autonomous vehicle technology, whether transporting people or items.

"They're very carefully and systematically exploring various kinds of technology, and how they're building on the success of Via and integrating Via with autonomous vehicle technology is a very creative approach," he said.

New Jersey Transit Moves Forward with Electric Bus Program

New Jersey Transit's board approved a \$3.23 million contract with Scalfio Electric Inc. Wednesday to build electric bus charging stations and the needed electric infrastructure in Camden.

BY LARRY HIGGS, NJ ADVANCE MEDIA GROUP, EDISON, N.J. / SEPTEMBER 10, 2020



The first electric
the road on June 13 in
fleet that will replace

that would bring more electric buses like this one to the state, under a test program. TNS (TNS) — NJ Transit was on two sides of the environmental coin on Wednesday, approving infrastructure that could bring environmentally clean electric buses to the state and facing demands that natural gas-fired electric power plant be reconsidered due to pollution concerns.

NJ Transit's board approved a \$3.23 million contract with Scalfio Electric Inc. of Vineland Wednesday to build electric bus charging stations and the needed electric infrastructure at the Newton Avenue Bus garage in Camden.

powered bus in the state hit
Newark Airport as part of a
diesels. NJ Transit took steps

That would allow the states first pilot program to start to test 8 electric transit buses in Camden. The results could determine if, and how they could be rolled out across the state. The only electric buses in use in the state now are Port Authority-owned buses at Newark Airport.

The bus garage power infrastructure has to potential to increase the number of vehicles served from 8 to 16 buses, said Eric Daleo, NJ Transit capital programs vice president, while the agency studies expansion and deploying more electric buses.

NJ Transit started four electric bus studies to electrify 20%, 50%, and 100% of the fleet at four garages - Newton Avenue in Camden, Hamilton, Hilton in Maplewood, and Greenville in Jersey City.

While electric buses were boasted as a step to meet Gov. Phil Murphy's pollution reduction goals to have 100% of NJ Transits bus purchases be electrics by 2032, the agency's planned \$546 million Transit Grid power plant proposed on a 20-acre site in Kearny was criticized by opponents for potentially worsening state air quality.

Environmentalists and residents of nearby cities said the proposed power plant would worsen unhealthy air and respiratory health problems in nearby neighborhoods. It also violates Murphy's executive order setting clean air goals, protesters said.

Opponents won a commitment from Transportation Commissioner Diane Guterrez-Scaccetti, NJ Transit's board chairwoman, that she would answer their request for a meeting to present new information about building a solar powered-battery plant instead. She said opponents could expect a letter next week.

That commitment came after numerous speakers criticized the agency for not responding to current research they provided in a 26-page document that countered the conclusion made in an April environmental report that said renewable energy technology couldn't meet the need. Opponents have been speaking at board meetings for months.

In July, Guterrez-Scaccetti said she hoped NJ Transit's board could meet opponents after the coronavirus pandemic subsided enough to allow face to face meetings to resume.

"Are you not willing to change the plans, when faced with a better possibility?" said Ken Dolsky, of the Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition. "You asked us to wait many months while you push this forward, that is the message you sent. We must have a meeting and discuss it like adults."

While NJ Transit officials said they have met with Transit Grid opponents, no meeting has been held since January to discuss the findings of the groups 26-page report.

"The last meeting with NJ Transit was in January, since then we provided new information and requested a meeting April and there has been radio silence," said John Richmond, Blue Wave NJ environmental committee chairman.

Jersey City and Hoboken's council joined seven other municipalities, formally opposing a natural gas powered TransitGrid power plant.

TransitGrid was proposed after Hurricane Sandy knocked out the commercial power grid and electric powered train service in October 2012. The plan would give NJ Transit its own power generating capacity to provide electricity to Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, the Morris and Essex lines of NJ Transit commuter rail, and the Hudson-Bergen light rail in case of a power outage.

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EPA's Eighth Annual SepticSmart Week: Safeguard Your Family's Health, Protect the Environment and Save Money

EPA Provides Training to More Than 35 Municipalities in Puerto Rico

San Juan, Puerto Rico (Sept. 17, 2020) This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—with support from state and local governments, the private sector, communities and academia—kicked-off its eighth annual SepticSmart Week. SepticSmart Week 2020 encourages homeowners, wastewater professionals and local officials to design and maintain effective septic systems to safeguard public health, protect the environment and save money.

EPA is working to help make septic systems more sustainable and resilient as part of its work to support disaster recovery in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands (USVI) from the long-term impacts from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. In 2019, EPA helped form the Caribbean Septic Systems Workgroup (CSSW), which engages communities, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to bring about real solutions for the residents of Puerto Rico and the USVI. In celebration of EPA's Septic Smart Week, EPA's Region 2 Caribbean Division is hosting a meeting of the Caribbean Septic Systems Workgroup on September 18 focused on important recovery actions and initiatives related to septic systems in Puerto Rico. This Workgroup includes representatives from local and federal agencies, non-government organizations, professional associations, academia, communities, and the private sector.

EPA recently invested \$50,000 of contract support to build septic systems management capability in Puerto Rico by developing a proposed framework for a geospatial tool that will help to build capacity for environmental and public health analysis of current and future locations of septic systems, as well as considerations for the new Puerto Rico Building Code compliance assistance and enforcement. In addition, EPA Region 2 recently organized a webinar with RCAP Solutions focused on how communities can find funding and technical resources for septic systems' design, construction, operations, and maintenance directed at Puerto Rico's municipalities. The webinar, which was held on September 11, had more than 75 participants representing 35 of the island's municipalities.

"EPA's annual SepticSmart Week provides an important reminder to maintain septic systems, which many individuals and communities rely on to safely manage wastewater," **said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water David Ross**. "EPA's simple tips to help septic systems operate properly will help protect public health and the environment while preventing costly repairs."

“Over 40 percent of the population living in Puerto Rico and over 50% of the population in the USVI rely upon septic systems to dispose of domestic wastewaters. These systems are often used because they are cheaper, and sewage systems or piping are not located nearby, but when not properly installed or monitored septic systems can pose a threat to groundwater and sensitive environments like karst terrain,” said EPA Regional Administrator Pete Lopez. “The Septic Systems Workgroup has allowed us to poll resources to help provide community-driven solutions to areas that struggle with septic systems that can negatively impact communities across Puerto Rico.”

EPA’s SepticSmart initiative is a nationwide public education effort that offers educational resources to homeowners, local organizations and government leaders to explain how septic systems work and provide tips on how to properly maintain them. Organizations and individuals wishing to engage in SepticSmart Week 2020 are encouraged to promote public awareness about the event and share helpful tips, such as:

Think at the Sink! What goes down the drain has a big impact on septic systems. Fats, grease and solids can clog a system’s pipes and drainfield.

- **Don’t Overload the Commode!** A toilet is not a trash can. Do not flush non-degradable items such as dental floss, diapers, wipes and hygiene products – they can damage a septic system.
- **Don’t Strain Your Drain!** Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances. Too much water use at once can overload a system that hasn’t been pumped recently.
- **Shield Your Field!** Tree and shrub roots, cars and livestock can damage your septic drainfield.
- **Keep It Clean!** Contamination can occur if a septic system leaks due to improper maintenance. Regular testing can help ensure that your drinking water is safe.
- **Protect It and Inspect It!** Regular septic system maintenance can save homeowners thousands of dollars in repairs and protect public health.
- **Pump Your Tank!** Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regularly intervals as recommended by a professional and/or local permitting authority.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/septic for resources and information, including recently released [Quick Tip Videos](#).

Background

More than one-fifth of U.S. households utilize an individual onsite system or small community cluster septic system to treat their wastewater. These systems treat and dispose of relatively small volumes of wastewater and include a wide range of individual and cluster treatment options to process household and commercial sewage. These systems go by such names as septic, decentralized wastewater treatment, cluster, package plants, on-lot, individual sewage disposal, and private sewage.

Onsite systems provide a cost-effective, long-term option for treating wastewater, particularly in sparsely populated areas. When properly installed, operated, and maintained, these systems help protect public health and a community's water resources.

Follow EPA Region 2 on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/eparegion2> and visit our Facebook page, <http://facebook.com/eparegion2>

20-063

Uber Commits to Aggressive 2030 All-Electric Vehicle Goal

The company has said that all trips taken in U.S., Canadian and European cities will take place in electric vehicles by 2030. The company also plans to meet net-zero emissions from its corporate operations by 2030.

BY ERIK BASCOME, STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE / SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

SHUTTERSTOCK

(TNS) — As wildfires continue to blaze through the hills of California, one e-hail company has committed to fighting climate change and building a greener tomorrow.

Earlier this week, Uber unveiled its plans to combat climate change through four key actions centered around the transition to electric vehicles and the proliferation of sustainable alternative travel options, like e-bikes and e-scooters.

“Instead of going back to business as usual, Uber is taking this moment as an opportunity to reduce our environmental impact. It's our responsibility as the largest mobility platform in the world to more aggressively tackle the challenge of climate change. We want to do our part to build back better and drive a green recovery in our cities,” said Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi.

By 2040, Uber has committed to being a completely zero-emission platform, with all trips booked through the app taking place either in zero-emission vehicles, on public transit or using micromobility options.

Additionally, the company has said that all trips taken in U.S., Canadian and European cities will take place in electric vehicles by 2030. The company also plans to meet net-zero emissions from its corporate operations by 2030.

“All told, hitting these goals would put us a decade ahead of Paris Climate Agreement targets,” Khosrowshahi said.

To help achieve these goals, Uber has announced that it will expand and incentivize its Uber Green program, which allows riders to pay \$1 extra to travel in a fully electric or hybrid vehicle.

By the end of 2020, Uber Green will be available in 65 cities around the world, and riders who choose Uber Green will earn 3x the Uber Reward points, as opposed to the 2x Uber Reward points riders receive after booking an UberX.

The company is also encouraging its drivers to transition to cleaner cars, with Uber committing over \$800 million to help hundreds of thousands of drivers switch to electric vehicles by 2025.

Drivers will also be incentivized to switch to electric vehicles with the opportunity to earn up to an additional \$1.50 per trip when driving a zero-emission vehicle.

Uber will also invest in growing its multimodal transportation network in order to discourage personal car usage by expanding its fleet of e-bikes and e-scooters, in addition to partnering with local transit agencies to integrate mass transit systems into the Uber app.

“The world is at a critical juncture, and we all have a role to play. Uber is aiming high. We’ll seek to build the most efficient, decarbonized, and multimodal platform in the world for on-demand mobility. While we’re not the first to set ambitious goals in transitioning to EVs, we intend to be the first to make it happen,” said Khosrowshahi.

“Competing on sustainability is a win for the world, and today we challenge other mobility platforms to transparency, accountability, and more action,” he added.

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For Immediate Release

Contact: ANJEC Executive Director Jennifer Coffey, jcoffey@anjec.org, 609-532-3462

**State's premier environmental conference going virtual
ANJEC to award coveted environmental achievement awards to 8 towns**

Mendham – Throughout the month of October, hundreds of environmentalists from all over

New Jersey will have a chance to learn from environmental leaders and experts, celebrate local efforts and interact with state policymakers at the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions' 47th Annual Environmental Congress. Eight environmental commissions and two organizations from New Jersey municipalities will receive ANJEC's prestigious Environmental Achievement Award, which recognizes exceptional projects that protect natural resources, health and open spaces in their communities.

The statewide nonprofit will host 10 online sessions via Zoom, beginning on October 1 and concluding on Oct. 31. The opening session will include award presentations and special messages from NJ Governor Phil Murphy and Senator Cory Booker. NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Deputy Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, is scheduled to speak and answer questions on October 2 at noon. Judith Enck, founder of Beyond Plastics and former EPA regional administrator, will be the keynote speaker, appearing on October 16 at noon.

Workshops and panel discussions will cover a range of environmental priorities, from climate resilience and green infrastructure to clean energy, environmental justice and legislative initiatives. New this year, an evening of New Jersey arts will feature NJ filmmaker Zack Morrison, who will screen his Emmy-winning short, Everything's Fine: A Panic Attack in D Major. The King Lam Duo, an offshoot of the popular NJ band Love Alive will also perform live as will accomplished international storyteller Julie Pasqual.

The ANJEC Environmental Achievement Awards

ANJEC has been presenting the Environmental Achievement Awards since the mid-1970s.

Environmental commissions are comprised of volunteers appointed by their municipalities or counties to advise on environmental issues, lead programs to protect and restore natural resources and educate community members about conservation.

This year's award winners include Environmental Commissions from Berkeley Heights, Caldwell, Cherry Hill, Keyport, Lambertville, Madison, Montgomery Township and Wall Twp. Two additional awards will be presented for projects by nonprofit groups: Sustainable Princeton and the Warren Green Team. *(Descriptions of award-winning projects are below.)*

About ANJEC

ANJEC is a 51-year-old nonprofit based in Mendham whose mission is to support environmental action at the local level. Throughout the state, ANJEC supports and educates environmental commissions, green teams, open space committees, local officials and concerned citizens working to protect and restore the environment in their communities. We advocate for sound public policies at the state and national level and collaborate with organizations on regional initiatives that safeguard natural resources. For more information, visit www.anjec.org

Contact: Jennifer Coffey, ANJEC Executive Director. jcoffey@ANJEC.org; 609-532-3462(cell).

Achievement Awards

Environmental Commissions Category

Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission - One Thousand Trees

Before the pandemic hit, Berkeley Heights Township Council Member Susan Poage had applied for 1,000 tree seedlings from the NJDEP, and the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission (EC) planned on distributing them on Arbor Day in April. Then COVID-19 happened and DEP suspended delivery of tree seedlings. At the beginning of May, they came up with a new plan for distribution, which required communities to pick up their seedlings (they were originally going to be delivered). With less than a month to develop a plan, the EC set up a promotional campaign. They picked up over 1,000 seedlings and set up a contact-free distribution procedure and more than 160 residents stopped by to pick up seedlings. An additional 400 seedlings went to the fourth grades in town.

Caldwell Environmental Commission - Nature's Best Hope

The Caldwell EC has been promoting pollinator gardens for several years. They were planning on offering a workshop accompanied by distribution of native plants for Earth Day, but with the pandemic, those plans were cancelled. Instead, they got Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard* to offer a webinar for his new book. To cover his fee, the EC got other groups to sponsor the event – the West Caldwell EC, Kiwanis of West Essex and Morgan Farm of the Cedar Grove Historical Society. The promotion for the event resulted in 1,365 registrations and participation be 1,035 in the Zoom presentation.

Cherry Hill Environmental Board (CHEB) - 10th Anniversary of Cherry Hill Trails Program

Cherry Hill had only one abandoned trail in 2009, but that number has grown to 11 locations with multiple trails at most locations and the town has gained the US Department of the Interior's National Recreational Trail recognition for two locations. CHEB took advantage of the 10th anniversary to market the availability of the trails, educate people about natural life on open spaces, and provide opportunities for people to both interact and support natural areas and trails. Activities included developing at least one article a month highlighting a trail in the Weekly Mayors Message with pictures and information, community service opportunities for church groups, private corporations and the public, educational articles about common wildlife that live in open space areas, and a published story of conservation success. They developed a robust schedule of activities in order to increase usage of the trails and they

opened a new trail system, the Thomas Paine Trail System in February 2020, which was welcomed in the community, as it was an off-road connection from a number of developments to and from an elementary school. They also created a Cherry Hills Trails Challenge, inspired by the National Park Service's Junior Ranger Program.

Keyport Borough Environmental Commission - Cedar Street Beach Dune Restoration Project Sand was being blown from the dunes into an adjacent park at great inconvenience and expense to the Borough. In an effort to build resiliency from storm surges and preserve the shoreline, the town's EC employed a "Living Shoreline Policy" that started with dune restoration. A group of volunteers began by clearing the area of invasive plants. They received help from the Jersey Shore Surfrider Association and consulted with a local ecologist to begin planting in late 2017. They repeated the effort in late 2018. By late 2019, the dunes were climbing and the beach grass was thriving.

Lambertville Environmental Commission - Ditching Disposables The 2018 ordinance banning the use of plastic straws, polystyrene, Styrofoam and plastic bags by businesses in the city of Lambertville spurred the Ditching Disposables Initiative, which is focused on fueling a culture shift away from single use plastics. It did this by educating the community, providing residents with a range of easy-to-adopt actions that can help transition away from single use plastics and reinforcing and celebrating positive changes. The following seven programs are the result - Sustainable Business Forum, Ditching Disposables Reusable Bag Education Campaign and Community Canvassing Day, Repurpose a T-shirt Workshop, Sustainability Lecture, Sustainability Story Time, Plastics Ordinance Info Session and Distribution of Ditching Disposables Signage to Businesses, Sustainable

Business Awards, and Green Business Certification.

Madison Environmental Commission - Eco House and Garden Tour The Madison EC organized an Eco House and Garden Tour, which highlighted energy efficient houses with geothermal heating and cooling, ultra-insulated walls and windows, induction stoves and airtight, energy-saving construction. For more conventional houses, the tour offered accessible ideas for saving energy -- solar systems and energy retrofits. Gardens on the tour showcased both pollinator-friendly native plants and organic vegetables, as well as beehives and chickens. In addition to the tour, the Madison EC offered \$49 discounted energy audits and sold composters and rain barrels.

Montgomery Township Natural Resource Inventory

In 2016, a new environmental commissioner attended ANJEC's training, "Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions," and went in search of the town's natural resources inventory (NRI). What he found was a document more than ten years old using data that (by that point) was twenty years old. They prepared their 2018 EC budget to include partial funding to update the NRI and the remaining costs were covered by the Planning Board. In addition, the town's in-house GIS specialist provided mapping for the report which allowed for cost savings as well as enhanced accuracy due to using township-generated data sets and on-the-ground knowledge. The NRI identifies over 65 potential projects which will become a work plan for the EC and the Township overall.

Wall Township EAC Perspective on "Environmentally Yours" Insightful Articles

The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee has published a series of articles on their own "Environmentally Yours" articles which are published in the monthly "Wall Township Living" magazine.

The list of published articles starting in March of this year -- "Who We Are and What We Do," "Facts on

Single Plastic Bags, Choose Cloth Bags," "Green Business Recognition Program," "Planting Your Own Garden," "How and Where to Recycle," "The Community Park 'Self-Guided Nature Trail,'" "The Wreck Pond Nature Preserve," "Conservation and Green Money Saving Tips." The benefits of this series are twofold – the residents of the town get some environmental education and the EAC lets them know who they are and that they offer education and resources to their community.

Non Profits or Community Organizations

Sustainable Princeton - Princeton Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Sustainable Princeton worked with businesses, subject matter experts, community groups, schools, and Princeton University to work on addressing climate change while fostering community. In a 16-month effort, they provided an ambitious community-based plan to reduce emissions 50 percent (from 2010 levels) by 2030, 65 percent by 2040, and 80 percent by 2050 (while pursuing efforts to achieve a 100 percent reductions). Objectives were broken down into categories - energy, land use & transportation, natural resources, materials management, and resiliency. They engaged over 4,600 community members, including 50 who served on a steering committee and five working groups. Over 80 meetings were held to vet and finalize the Plan's 84 specific strategies and a draft plan was made available for feedback. The *Climate Action Plan Emissions Reduction Strategies (CAPERS)* team was comprised of Princeton University undergraduates, graduate students, high school students and community members. Team research is now focused on CAP implementation, with a growing membership advised by Sustainable Princeton. To ensure that CAP objectives are actually attained, Sustainable Princeton holds various educational events such as Princeton's Ask an Expert Series, Great Ideas Series, GreenFest, and Farmer's Market to share knowledge and reinforce sustainable behaviors community wide. The CAP was adopted by Princeton Council in July 2019. Specific strategies identified in the plan have been pursued including adoption of a Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element into Princeton's *Master Plan*, implementation of a *Renewable Energy Aggregation Plan*, which offers Princeton residents access to cleaner energy at a small cost savings, resiliency planning, establishment of a Flood and Stormwater Commission and more.

Warren Green Team – Living in Harmony with Nature: the Warren Green Team response to COVID-19

The Warren Green Team initiated a series of educational materials and virtual events entitled "Living in Harmony with Nature" in order to promote sustainable practices in Warren Township during the COVID-19 shut down. They used social media and the Township website to promote updated comprehensive resources while people sheltered in place: this resulted in an 1800 percent increase in viewership. In partnership with the Somerset County Library System, they conducted a two-part webinar series on environmental topics for Warren residents – "Discover How to Incorporate Healthy Environmental Standards in Your Home and Yard and Why It Matters" and "Managing Your Environmental Footprint." Finally, they initiated two food drives

(their foodbank only accepts food from 9-2 on workdays so it is not accessible to all) and collected over 2,500 pounds of food plus an additional anonymous donation worth \$1,000. They have another food drive scheduled for November.