



Borough of Flemington

38 Park Avenue
Flemington, New Jersey 08822
Phone (908) 782-8840
Fax (908) 782-0142

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION **2013 Annual Report**

To: Flemington Borough Council
From: Brian C. Budney, Chair

Introduction:

The Flemington Borough Environmental Commission has completed a productive year and I am pleased to provide this report to Borough Council pursuant to §40:56A-4 of Flemington Ordinance 2008-2. During 2013, the Environmental Commission was instrumental in pursuing community outreach/information programs, reviewing pending development applications and providing comment to the Flemington Land Use Board, and outlining the groundwork for the steps and commitment necessary for Silver Certification under the Sustainable Jersey program. The purpose of this Memorandum is to outline these accomplishments in greater detail, highlight ongoing projects and initiatives, and discuss our plans for 2014.

Organization of the Environmental Commission:

The Environmental Commission held its Re-Organization Meeting on February 19, 2013. This meeting was noticed in conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Brian Budney facilitated the meeting where the regular meeting schedule was adopted (3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 PM at Borough Hall) and noting exceptions for legal holidays (where the meeting would be typically moved to Tuesdays). The Borough Mayor made the following appointments (or reappointments):

Member	Term Through
Brian Budney, Chair	2014
David Cohn	2015
Karen Walsh, Green Team Liaison and Chair	2015
Jeffrey Doshna, Sustainable Jersey Liaison	2015
Marc Hain	2013
Dorothy Fine, Council Liaison	2013
Diana Davis	2013
1 st Alternate – Position Open	
2 nd Alternate – Position Open	

The ordinance allows for up to seven (7) regular members plus two (2) alternates, appointed by the Mayor, all of whom shall be Borough residents.

NOTE: This memorandum outlines FBEC's understanding of the items discussed. All comments or additions should be forwarded to FBEC within five (5) days of receipt of this memorandum. If we do not receive any corrections or additions, we will assume that this memorandum is accurate as stated.

For a "Greener" Flemington

Sustainable Jersey:

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go “green”, initiate cost saving measures through resource efficiency, and take steps to sustain the quality of life over the long term. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with financial incentives in preserving the environment from state and private sources, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training. Additional information is available at sustainablejersey.com. The process of obtaining Certification requires the Borough to earn “points” in a number of different areas that are considered key to sustainability. The Sustainable Jersey program also provides guidance on how to achieve those goals. During the certification process Flemington Borough gains access to grants and help identifying new funding opportunities to get certified; certification opens up additional funding sources. The Borough of Flemington earned “Bronze” level certification in 2011.

The Environmental Commission spent a portion of 2013 meetings discussing the steps needed to achieve “Silver Certification” and reviewing available Sustainable Jersey grants. Additionally, the original Bronze Certification will expire on December 31, 2014. An application for re-certification is to be submitted by June 2014. The Environmental Commission anticipates spearheading these efforts during 2014.

Green Team:

Public programs during 2013 focused on weekly Health & Wellness in the Community series conducted during the summer months on every Wednesday from June 12 through August 28 at the Court Park on Court Street in the Borough. All events were free to the public and included yoga, a Mayors walk around town, morning mediation, a Walk to Run Group, Zumba, Thai Chi, and a weekly guest speaker on various topics such as nutrition, animal health, self-help techniques, and bicycling and walking for health.

A copy of the event schedule is attached to this Report.

Development Applications:

As provided for under ordinance, the Environmental Commission is empowered to provide comment to the Flemington Borough Planning Board about any pending development application that may have an environmental impact. During 2013, the Environmental Commission provided formal comment on the following applications:

- No new Planning Board development applications during 2013.

Other Reviews:

In addition to reviewing and commenting on Borough Planning/Zoning Board applications, the Environmental Commission was additionally queried to provide comment/support on the following:

1. Route 31 DOT Facility and Borough Well 6, review status of ongoing site remediation activities;
2. Municipal solid waste disposal change from a landfill to a waste-to-energy facility;
3. Revisions to the Borough Noise Ordinance;
4. Publication of articles in the Borough Newsletter (Recycling Matters – May 2013; Materials Repurposing – August 2013).

Goals for 2014:

The Environmental Commission seeks to undertake the following activities during 2014:

- Renew the existing Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification (expires 12/31/14, submit by June 2014) and pursue achieving Silver Certification under the New Jersey Sustainable Jersey program;
- Actively seek Borough residents to become members of the Environmental Commission and Green Team and bolster community outreach projects;
- Provide review and comment to Borough Council of environmental- and sustainability related ordinances;
- Provide review and comment to the Planning Board on the environmental impacts of proposed development applications;
- Become a resource for residents, business owners and other Borough departments on ways to become more sustainable and environmentally sensitive.