

SustainableEHC

Meeting Minutes

Jan. 26, 2021

The first SustainableEHC of the year was held via the Zoom online meeting platform 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Jodi Kahn, Dick Colby, Tracy Mulherin, Rick Dovey, Scott and Jessica Senn, Candace Nagron, Steve Fiedler, Councilman Karl Timbers and Mayor Lisa Jiampetti.

Galloway welcomed everyone. Kahn indicated there is \$94 left in the SustainableEHC trust account after funding set aside to renew SustainableEHC domain name for two years and web hosting for one year.

Galloway and Kahn provided updates to the Sustainable Jersey solar grant, and AC Electric Resiliency grant, which is partially funding repairs to the dam at EHC Lake. The solar grant funded an investigation into putting solar panels on four city buildings. The city is currently soliciting bids for a power purchase agreement. The AC Electric grant was for \$10,000, but total repairs are between \$20,000-30,000. Employees of Public Works are doing some of the work in-house to save on costs.

Galloway announced a new round of Sustainable Jersey grants (\$2K, \$10K, \$20K) will be announced in February. We can apply for a small grant and a large grant to kick-start the purchase of trash and recycling carts. The ACUA will fund the \$199,000 purchase of carts for all households (1,800), which can be paid back over five years, Dovey said. Actual costs may be lower as the number of households may be lower. The green team will continue to seek grants to fund the purchase. Jiampetti said the Neighborhood Preservation Program may have funds for any COVID-19 related items. City Council will consider the issue.

The team reviewed a lengthy list of action items to obtain points for Sustainable Jersey bronze certification. Application due in June, but items do not have to be completed, but well underway by September-October. Members provided input on each item.

Nagron informed the group about grant awarded to the Coalition for a Safe Community, which will fund building a greenhouse at Peace Pilgrim Park. Galloway suggested collaborating on a spring native plant sale, with Rutgers Master Gardeners providing an educational component.

The mayor is interested in participating in a wellness campaign. Galloway suggested establishing a cross-town route for runners and walkers in the more rural areas with mile markings painted along the curb line.

The team could consider collaborating with students at Cedar Creek High School and Stockton University on Community Asset Mapping and Heat Island Assessment actions.

Galloway suggested the city consider establishing a tree protection ordinance. Sample ordinances will be sent to the Ordinance Committee.

Galloway noted the Mighty Salem Oak sapling will be sent to the city in time for an Arbor Day celebration. The sapling is small, so best to plant in a concrete pot at City Hall until it

grows larger and can be planted in the ground. Will need to find a suitable location in a park because it is a large tree species.

Fiedler encouraged EHC to collaborate on programs with Go Green Galloway and the Mullica River Hub, including cleanups at Clarks Landing.

Galloway reminded the group that the statewide bag ban will go into effect in Jan. 2022. The green team should conduct a robust educational campaign, and if funding allows, distribute reusable bags in the community. The team could piggy-back on a Go Green Galloway program, which is conducting a bag logo design contest.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23.