

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for November 1, 2023

Attendees: Aimee Bentley (AB), Cheryl Hauske (CH), Diane Herbert (DH), Robert Jakubowski (RJ), Jeanne Mugler (JM), Darren Norgrum (DN), Elizabeth Quinn (EQ), and Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. Paper Shredding and Electronic Waste Recycling Event follow up:
 - a. Thanks to all the volunteers that made this event a success.
 - b. The paper shredding event for 2024 is already arranged and will occur on October 19, 2024 at the Audubon Municipal parking lot.
 - c. CH will coordinate with Magnum Recycling to have them participate as well in the October 19, 2024 event next year.
 - d. Traffic flow will be reversed for the event next year. The entrance and exit will both be blocked off until the official start time.
 - e. No commercial paper recycling to be emphasized in event announcements.
 - f. Thanks also to Magnum Recycling which made a \$300 donation to Sustainable Audubon (SA) for activities related to the electronic waste collection.

2. Mum flower sale follow up:
 - a. Thanks again to all the volunteers who made this event a success.
 - b. CH estimated a profit of \$350 resulted from this year's sale.
 - c. The next flower event is planned for May 10, 2023, the Friday before Mother's Day.

3. ANJEC Environmental Municipal Leadership award ceremony review:
 - a. Congratulations to RJ for receiving one of the five municipal leader awards given out this year (October 13th at the Mercer County College Conference Center).
 - b. JM and AB also attended the awards ceremony and the associated information sessions.

4. Garden Maintenance review:
 - a. Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in the various cleanup efforts.
 - b. EQ is recognized for decorating the Lions Club gazebo garden for Halloween.
 - c. Thanks to Stacey Behm (SB) for providing the planter care reminder cards to the Merchant Street businesses.
 - d. Thanks also to EQ and DH for watering and providing initial care for the Merchant Street planters.
 - e. Thanks also to the Lion's Club for their previous donation of \$200.00 for SA's garden maintenance activities.

5. Shade Tree Program review:
 - a. Starting on October 21, 2023, 20 shade trees were planted at no cost to the property owners. Root 24 Inc. was the primary sponsor and SA again extends its appreciation to Root 24 Inc. for their generous support.
 - b. The residents that received trees will be notified when they are supposed to stop watering their respective trees.
 - c. NJ Trees will be approached for funding for a future tree planting effort in 2024.
 - d. DH suggested an Audubon photo contest to highlight the topic of trees and possibly be a means to generate funds.
 - e. DN suggested periodic distribution of tree information as an educational outreach and to garner interest in future planting efforts. The Audubon Library Line might be a vehicle to do this.
 - f. The \$106,000 grant received by the Audubon School System to support tree planting was discussed.

6. Trex Bench/plastic recycling update:
 - a. Thanks to CH and JM for doing the Edmund Optics plastic pick up.
 - b. Recycled plastic collection total for October was 294 lbs.
 - c. The Audubon Public Library will be the next Trex bench recipient.
 - d. Oaklyn is restarting their collection effort.

7. Community Energy Plan (CEP) update: Sustainable Jersey is monitoring the CEP grant for the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and has requested a November 3, 2023 zoom meeting. TS will attend on behalf of the Borough.

8. Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership program (SJ-PSE&G EEPP) grant update:
 - a. Audubon Board of Commissioners has issued a resolution approving applying for an additional \$5,000.00 grant from SJ-PSE&G EEPP.
 - b. As the Borough business administrator, David Taraschi (DT) has signed off on a document requiring the use of any of the \$5,000.00 funding to support the SJ-PSE&G EEPP if awarded.
 - c. An application for the additional grant has been submitted.
 - d. Spending suggestions for the funding were solicited and discussed. This included both the initial \$2,500.00 as well as the yet to be awarded \$5,000.00.
 - e. DT has indicated he will have the Department of Public Works assist SA in placing a SJ-PSE&G EEPP street banner on the fences at Audubon Family Park.
 - f. SJ-PSE&G EEPP will need to be contacted soon to arrange a speaker/meeting to discuss the program around the Audubon Day timeframe.

9. Third Friday follow up:
 - a. Thanks to all those who tabled the event.
 - b. Thanks to Sandy Perchetti (SP) for updating the SA wheel game.
 - c. The October 20, 2023 event was the last Third Friday event involving the Greater Audubon Business Association (GABA). GABA has dissolved and the Third Friday events will be continued in the Spring under the leadership of Chris Bauman of the Red, White, and Brew Beer Company.

10. Earmark update: The earmark that includes the funding requested by RJ (that included a vehicle and watering system) was part of the Congressionally directed spending advocated by Senator Corey Booker; however, it is of course subject to the United States Federal Budget approval process.

11. Potential electric vehicle charge station update: Under discussion is a 5 town grant via the Camden County Improvement Authority for electric vehicle charging stations. Potentially this involves \$70,000.00 per town with matching State funding. However, it remains a work in progress.

12. Old Business/New Business
 - a. Albie Delgado, The Solar Guy, discussed his involvement with solar energy. He mentioned that educational outreach to the public was part of his activities. His company services all 21 counties in New Jersey and they also have a roofing division in addition to a solar panel installation group.
 - b. The purchase and distribution of shirts with the SA logo and brand was discussed. JM priced regular T-shirts with printing at a local vendor. The cost was approximately \$12 each (\$14 for larger sizes) with a minimum order of 12. This cost would be covered by SA funds as a thank you for participating in SA activities. If tab shirts were desired, a \$25.00 artwork fee would be incurred, and the cost of shirts would be \$25.00 each with a 1 to 3 shirt production run. SA would offset this increased shirt cost by an amount equivalent to the corresponding T-shirt expense. Submission of shirt size and desired shirt type by those interested is to be emailed to JM.

13. Next meeting is Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Audubon Senior Center