

## Sustainable Audubon Meeting Agenda for December 6, 2023

Attendees: Stacey Behm (SB), Aimee Bentley (AB), Ann Gillespie (AG), Cheryl Hauske (CH), Diane Herbert (DH), Robert Jakubowski (RJ), Jeanne Mugler (JM), Darren Norgrum (DN), Elizabeth Quinn (EQ), Regina Richards (RR), and Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. Listing and discussion of potential events for Sustainable Audubon (SA) from December 2023 to December 2024 is the primary purpose of this meeting. Specifics for each event or activity will be determined at a later date.
  - a. An April 2024 - Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership program (SJ-PSE&G EEPP) information session is proposed to be held. Barrington and Haddonfield will be approached on holding this event jointly. The Zoom versus in person nature of this meeting is still to be determined.
  - b. An April 27, 2024 - Audubon Day is proposed to be held. Activities will mirror those of previous events.
  - c. A May 3, 2024 - Spring flower and plant sale is proposed to be held. Advance sales will be solicited with a pickup point and time specified.
  - d. "Third Fridays" or equivalent events are proposed to be held. Activities will mirror those of previous events.
  - e. A June 2024 – Shade tree planting effort (with a spring or fall start date) is to be included on the list of proposed activities.
  - f. An August 6, 2024 – National Night Out is proposed to be held. Activities will mirror those of previous events.
  - g. An October 19, 2024 - Paper Shredding and Electronic Waste Recycling Event is proposed to be held. Activities will mirror those of previous events but with improved traffic control measures instituted.
  - h. Holding a movie night jointly with the Audubon Public Library has been suggested.
  - i. An educational session featuring a certified gardeners presentation on a topic to be determined is proposed to be held. The Red, White and Brew has been suggested as a potential location if it can be arranged.
  - j. A repeat of the Haviland Ave. School Monarch Day event activity has been suggested.

2. Discussion of other potential activities for Sustainable Audubon (SA) from December 2023 to December 2024.
  - a. Garden maintenance will need to be done prior to Audubon Day. EQ is to propose potential work dates and suggested workplans that volunteers can sign up for.
  - b. Distribution of tree information as an educational outreach and to garner interest in future planting efforts was discussed. Information distribution at tabling events will be done. Inclusion of pamphlets in tax bill mailings is to be explored. SB provided an example of a pamphlet that could be used. Possible pamphlet modifications will be discussed at the next meeting. Sandy Perchetti (SP) will be asked to do final pamphlet preparation.
  - c. An Audubon photo contest to highlight the topic of trees was discussed. Details are still to be finalized but currently electronic submission of local scenes/trees will be solicited in the Spring or at Audubon Day. DH will coordinate this effort. A print of the winning submission will be displayed at a location like the Audubon Public Library, the Audubon Municipal Building, or the Francis J. Ward Recreation Center. Various prize options are to be discussed in the future.
  - d. JM put forward the idea of Christmas light recycling. Collection points such as Audubon Hardware and Supply will be established, and Magnum Recycling will be approached to handle the processing.
3. Shade Tree Program funding and outreach discussion:
  - a. Current funding options include the NJ Tree Foundation. AB will generate an application for funding which will be for a tree planting effort in 2024. Whether it is the Borough or the REACH 501C that will be formally applying is still being determined.
  - b. A future potential funding source is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Urban and Community Forestry Plan. This would be for 2025 and may involve a matching dollar requirement. AB will be reaching out to Oaklyn for additional information.
  - c. Outreach efforts: Various advertising vehicles to promote the tree planting effort are under consideration and will be discussed in the future.
4. Trex Bench/plastic recycling discussion: Trex bench donation requirements have been changed to 500 lbs. over a 12 month period instead of over a 6 month period.

Photographic proof of plastic drop off is also now required. AG will continue to oversee the Trex effort. The November plastic collection was 317 lbs.

5. Community Energy Plan (CEP) update:
  - a. On November 3, 2023, a Zoom meeting between Sustainable Jersey (SJ) personnel and TS was held to discuss the status of the Audubon Community Energy Program effort. SJ is doing oversight for the funding agency, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The Audubon efforts in conjunction with ACT Engineering to develop a draft CEP plan were discussed with internal circulation of the initial draft CEP plan expected after Thanksgiving.
  - b. SJ indicated there was a potential implementation grant for CEP related projects due to be announced shortly. Applications will need to be submitted by January 31, 2024 and would require the CEP plan to be complete and adopted. This would require two public hearings to be held and a resolution of adoption by the Commissioners prior to January 31, 2024.
  
6. Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership program (SJ-PSE&G EEPP) grant update:
  - a. Audubon was awarded an additional grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 by SJ-PSE&G EEPP.
  - b. Spending suggestions for all of the SJ-PSE&G EEPP grant funding is being solicited. Under consideration are an electronic sign board and a gift certificate incentive program to encourage participation.
  - c. Street banner placement at Audubon Family Park will be facilitated by the Audubon Department of Public Works.
  
7. T-shirt update: JM has developed an order for SA shirts and will move forward with it.
  
8. The next meeting is tentatively Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. with a location due to be announced (due to construction at the Audubon Senior Center). The court room in the Audubon Municipal Building is the likely location. However, be advised that the public hearing for the draft CEP plan may be held concurrently and depending on its length at the minimum would precede the SA meeting.