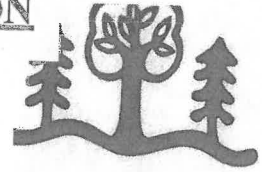


LIVINGSTON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Commission
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TO: Livingston Township Council and Township Manager
FROM: Walter LeVine, Chair, Livingston Environmental Commission (LEC)
DATE: February 7, 2019

A. MEMBERS

The following individuals were members of the LEC during 2018. Attendance was noted at every meeting and recorded in the meeting minutes by the assigned Corresponding Secretary:

Walter LeVine	(Chairperson)
Lauren Tabak-Fass	(Vice Chairperson)
Pearl Hwang	(Corresponding Secretary)
Norman Gudema	(Secretary)-retired end of 2018
Robert Hunter	(Member)
Alan Glazer	(Member)
Adam Lippman	(Alternate 1)
Scott Goldman	(Alternate 2)
Al Anthony	(Township Council Liaison)
Sam Ratner	(Planning Board Liaison)

B. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

- 1. Open Space Issues** - Walter LeVine served as the LEC liaison to the Open Space Committee, on which Sam Ratner and Alan Glazer are also members. They all provide reports on applicable projects and other issues that the Open Space Committee is handling. The LEC is also available to rank the environmental features of the open space parcels proposed to be acquired by the Open Space Committee.
- 2. Bamboo Ban Ordinance** - The LEC met with Carl Pluchino, Livingston's Zoning Inspector on March 1, 2018 to discuss some of his concerns with the Bamboo Ordinance enacted in 2017. Areas of concern included, banning chemical eradication, requiring a 3-foot setback, 40 mil thick barriers and 3-inch lip, and establishing a fixed depth allowing for easier enforcement. After vigorous conversation, the LEC elected not to make any changes to the ordinance. This decision was made recognizing that no ordinance, is perfect, and that any additional changes may have unintended consequences and the belief that the ordinance as enacted was working.
- 3. Energy Aggregation** - The Township has approved the possible creation of an energy aggregation contract. To date, no contract has been awarded. Since the award is anticipated to be for green energy, LEC has supported this effort.

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4. **Solar Energy Aggregation** - LEC has discussed coordinating an opportunity for residents interested in solar energy to leverage their purchasing power by entering into a "solar energy aggregation cooperative". The Commission continues to discuss the feasibility of rolling out and the appropriate time to do so.
5. **Tree Fund Ordinance** -The Commission began discussing approaching the Township Council with a recommendation to amend the Tree Fund ordinance to support and encourage private plantings with the help of the Tree Fund. Discussions to date are modeling a program similar to the sidewalk repair program currently implemented by the Township.

C. COMMITTEE LIAISON EFFORTS

1. **Livingston Green Team** - Walter LeVine attended the meetings of the Livingston Green Team and served as the primary liaison for the LEC.
2. **Recycling and Reclamation (R&R) Committee** - The LEC is a member of the R&R committee. Scott Goldman is Chairman of that committee and Walter LeVine was the liaison to this committee. Scott and Walter conveyed information about the various R&R projects with the LEC. LEC members assisted and participated in various R&R events.
3. **Orchard Hill Park Committee** -The LEC continues to be available to offer advice to the Orchard Park Committee and the Open Space committee regarding suggested uses and attractions of Orchard Park.

D. COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

1. Supported the Recycling and Reclamation (R&R) Committee in the three sponsored Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding events. These events were held on April 7, June 24, and October 13, 2018.
2. Promoting efforts of the Recycling and Reclamation Committee in maintaining and expanding recycling opportunities (e.g., household hazardous waste and single use plastic bags).
3. Provide general public awareness and press releases to environmental events through the Township website and local news media such as the West Essex Tribune.
4. Maintained communication and cooperation with the Township Engineer to obtain updates and offer advice during the creation of future Complete Streets. This would provide an opportunity to evaluate a tangible means to further promote a sustainable and . traffic calming/pedestrian/bike friendly community.
5. Continued collaboration and support with the Livingston Board of Education and Township Council to sponsor environmentally related projects and programs at Orchard Hill Park and other available locations.

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6. Solicited grants from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) and government agencies that the Township may qualify or interested.
7. LEC Chair Walter LeVine attended the Township's tree-planting event with the entire Township Council, Deputy Township Manager Russell Jones and others at the Oval to plant the tree.

E. SITE PLAN AND DOCUMENT REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the LEC to review and comment upon applications that are pending before the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The LEC also recommends the approval or denial of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Waiver requests.

A representative of the LEC regularly attends (on a monthly schedule and when otherwise scheduled) the Technical Review Advisory Committee (TRAC) meetings and conveys environmentally related comments to the applicant based upon the LEC's review of the application. Over the course of 2018, the LEC considered and commented on the following applications and EIS waivers:

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|-------------|---|
| March - | Cryoport Systems (Liquid nitrogen tank - Site plan review) |
| June - | 133-135 E. McClellan Ave. (garage/parking -EIS Waiver) |
| July- | JSDD Foundation (Rehab center) |
| September - | Barker Brothers (Dog daycare - Zoning Board site plan review)
St. Barnabas Medical Center (new parking lot - EIS Waiver) |
| October - | 12 Peach Tree Hill Road (Precision Escalator loading dock - EIS Waiver) |
| November - | 9 Peach Tree Hill Road (Formosa solar - EIS Waiver)
JMZ Enterprise (3-lot subdivision, verbal review for TRAC meeting) |

In addition, as it involves a known contaminated site, LEC has followed the NJ ENERGY - EXXON GAS STATION application before the Zoning Board to reopen the former Exxon gas station on the northeastern corner of Hillside Avenue and Northfield Road. Since two members of LEC are also Zoning Board members, they recused themselves from participation in any public or closed session discussions.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE

With the new Township website in place in 2018, LEC no longer has direct access to post our meeting agendas and meeting minutes.

G. BUDGET - USES AND CONSIDERATIONS

LEC proposed a \$3,000 budget for 2019, same as the previous years. The budget would be used for the annual ANJEC membership dues, attending programs on the environment, educating and

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informing Livingston residents and visitors on environmental topics, and other environmentally related activities.

Walter D. LeVine

Submitted: *March 1*, 2019

Walter D. LeVine,
Chairman