

Warren Township
Environmental Commission
Annual Report
2019

Members, Environmental Commission

Laura Mandell (Presiding Officer)
Sal DiBianco, Liaison to Planning Board
Harold Black
Philip Lobo
Karen Task
Karen Kaiser
Wayne DeFeo
Susan Zeitels

Mick Marion (Township Committee Liaison)

Environmental Commission

Annual Report

In accord with the provisions of New Jersey statute NJSA 40:56A-1 et seq., and The Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Warren, Chapter 2-11 Environmental Commission, the Environmental Commission is pleased to submit this report for calendar year 2019.

Duties of the Commission

The Environmental Commission has a broad range of powers and responsibilities under state and municipal law. Principal powers and responsibilities include:

- Promote the conservation, development, preservation, and protection of the natural resources of the Township
- Advise the Township Committee and other municipal officials on environmental issues affecting the Township
- Recommend to the Planning Board plans and programs for inclusion in a municipal master plan and the development and use of such areas
- Inform and advise the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding the environmental impact of proposals for development
- Investigate environmental and natural resource issues for the Township and recommend solutions
- Inform residents on environmental issues and ways to protect the environment
- Conduct research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the township
- Coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes
- Advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets, which in its judgment it deems necessary for its purposes
- Maintain an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marsh lands, swamps and other wet lands, in order to obtain information on the proper use of such areas

Activities and Accomplishments

The Environmental Commission held 8 meetings in 2019 all of which covered plans for review. Minutes recording the recommendations to the Planning Board, and copies were submitted to the Township Committee and posted on the Township website, www.warrennj.org.

Principal activities and accomplishments were as follows:

- Reviewed and sent recommendations to the Planning Board regarding in 2019 for 18 site plans for proposed residential and commercial developments within the Township
- Provided a list of Deer Resistant Native Plants to the Planning Board
- Studied site plans and made numerous recommendations to the Planning Board based on factual evidence concerning soil disturbance, steep slopes, plantings, stormwater management and run off, wetlands, planting recommendations, green infrastructure, air pollution control, noise control, assuring adequate space for recycling and waste management, lighting, protection of wildlife and fauna, soil erosion and sediment control during and following construction, landscape and tree protection and Freshwater Wetland Protection as specified in Warren Code Chapter 15 Land Use Procedures and Development; Chapter 16 Zoning, Chapter 17 Tree Replacement and in NJSA 40:56a-6
- Made recommendations for a Dark Sky Ordinance
- Made recommendations to make all new developments Electric Vehicle Friendly
- Made recommendations to require cool roofs
- Made additional recommendations for Stormwater Management
- Made a recommendation for an ordinance for post construction compliance 5 years out
- The Chair, Laura Mandell, met with Mark Krane regarding the budget appropriations
- The Chair, Laura Mandell, attended the ANJEC Environmental Congress
- Commissioner, Wayne DeFeo attended and made recommendations to the Technical Coordinating Committee
- Made a recommendation for the purchase of Open Space at 17 Church Street with a request for further guidance on Open Space from the town
- Two members, Susan Zeitels and Karen Kaiser, attended a training session and listened to various webinars on topics of interest to the commission

Membership

Members are appointed by the Warren Township Committee. Meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.