



Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting: August 8, 2023 6:31-8:04PM

Public Service Facility, 500 Keough Rd

Agenda

1. Call to order 6:31pm
 - ✓ Sheila Bentley
 - ✓ Paul Brister
 - ✓ Brian Huntington
 - ✓ Michelle Obenour
 - ✓ Mary Urrutia
 - ✓ Kristy Yeung
2. Board members unable to attend:
Edgar Jimenez, Kathryn Martin, Bethany Schmidt, Clay Ticer
3. July 2023 meeting minutes approved as is.
4. Welcome to our new student member Kristy and a student guest from the high school.

Active Items

1. Community Summit Series, 6-8pm at Town Library
 - a. Sep 14 – Residential tree care and maintenance (Cathy Justis (date doesn't work for her)), and Loose-leaf collection (Brian Huntington).
 - i. **Paul** - Urban Forestry, Dunton Tree service, or Lichterman Nature Center could provide a speaker. Also get update on the tree canopy study.
 - ii. **Mickey** – email Jennifer info for town social media once speakers finalized.
 - b. Nov 9 - Sustainability / recycling (Amber) and Energy Conservation (TVA)
2. Conservation Corner, **Mickey** email to Jennifer:
 - a. August (Paul) – Water reduction measures, lawn watering tips, clothes/dish washing, etc
 - b. September (**Kathryn**) – Fall planting tips and native plants.
 - c. October (already written by Sheila) – plastic bags
3. Composting Update
 - a. Mike Larivee, Compost Fairy founder, will talk to Paul later this month about possible cooperation with town.
5. Tree Canopy & Town Ordinances -
 - a. Part 2 – Tree ordinance discussion. Top 3 areas for improvement:
 - i. Guidelines / stricter regulation on agricultural exemption.
 - ii. Incentives to builders for tree preservation or greenspace expansion beyond ordinance guidelines.
 - iii. Environmental impact / tree canopy report must be provided with building plans.
 - b. Paul should get an update soon regarding the tree canopy study.
 - c. **Clay** – ask Jamie Groce if he can come to the October meeting to talk about our tree ordinance recommendations.
6. Grant opportunities for CEC to pursue:
 - a. TN - Community Tree Planting Program (TAEP) (Next Year – trees in Halle Park)
 - i. Application deadline late May 2024
<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests/urban/community-tree-planting-program.html>
 - b. Glass <https://www.glassrecyclingfoundation.org/grants>
 - i. Application deadline early July 2024
 - c. TN Dept of Environment and Conservation has numerous grants, funds could be used for:
 - i. Sanitation truck for recycle collection, or AI/digital capabilities related to recycle contamination.

- ii. [Materials Management Grants \(tn.gov\)](#)
- d. USA grants helps you find applicable grant programs: [USA Grant Applications](#)
- e. Transportation alternatives program (funding for safe routes to school): [Transportation Alternatives Program \(tn.gov\)](#)

Ongoing

- 4. Budget - \$2000
 - a. Motion to spend \$50 for two speaker gifts for upcoming symposium – **approved**.
- 5. Town Updates
 - a. Four contaminated recycle loads last month costing town \$4,000 (yard waste, clothes, tarps, garden hoses, electrical wires, plastics). Town is running a large recycling education social media campaign but here are some ways we will help:
 - i. **Paul** – create simple sticker design for carts and/or magnets.
 - ii. **Mickey** – write article “Hidden Costs of Wishcycling”
 - b. Water treatment updates: External fuel tanks for all generators have concrete spill containment areas. New generators have double walled fuel tanks. Water storage is inspected every 5 years, however considering recent events all water containment was inspected by town personnel and is safe. Town requires two personnel for refilling fuel tanks for all generators. Five water treatment plants in town.
 - i. **Clay** - get info for setting up tour of water and wastewater treatment plants.
- 6. New Business & Tracking of Completed Projects
 - a. TN Dept of Transportation is offering FREE milkweed seeds. Get some free seeds for your yard or sign up to receive some and we can pass them out at the next symposium. [Tennessee Pollinators | TDOT Pollinator Habitat Program \(tnpollinators.org\)](#) Order seeds BEFORE Oct 1 to receive them now. Orders placed after Oct 1 will be mailed out in Spring of 2024.
 - i. **Mickey** - send this info to Jennifer for posting in collaboration with September’s Conservation Corner on native species.
- 7. Adjournment 8:04pm