

## **Raritan Township Environmental Commission 2023 Accomplishments**

The Environmental Commission welcomed Frank Scipione and Brad Perry to the Commission.

The Environmental Commission and Green Team held a green Fair in April with 13 different environmental stations providing information on native plants, local wildlife, emergency management, composting and other topics. At the Green Fair the Native Plant & Pollinator Garden planted in 2022 was dedicated.

This year the Environmental Commission got 400+ plants donated to the township to extend the pollinator garden, completing the front area of the Municipal building and the area around the side of the Memorial Patio. The plants were planted on October and should be in full bloom next spring.

The Environmental Commission volunteered for Spring Road Clean up, clearing away 9 bags of garbage on Dayton Road from Route 12 circle to South Main Street.

The Environmental Commission apply and won a \$10,000 award from Sustainable Jersey/PSEG Foundation to run a pilot Food Waste Recycling & Composting program at two local farmers markets. Since mid June the Environmental Commission with help from Neighborhood Compost and local volunteers have collected over 3 tons of food waste that has been sent to a farm for composting. The Commission has also been working with a member of the County Environmental Solid Waste team to explore ways increase food waste recycling in the County.

The Green Team and Environmental Commission submitted new actions to Sustainable Jersey thereby achieving a total of 220 points and being recertificated at the bronze level for a second year in a row.

The Green Team has started to recruit volunteers to help with maintaining the pollinator and rain gardens, do trail maintenance, assist with Sustainable Jersey actions and help in other areas the Green team would be involved in.

Through November, the Environmental Commission has reviewed and commented on 26 Site Plan applications (Including Dec we should be at 30 site plans reviewed)

The Environmental Commission assisted RHA by collecting residential Well Test samples in October at the Municipal building

The Environmental Commission organized an 'Environmental Corner' for Community Day consisting of 6 different environmental groups, but unfortunately the event was rained out.

The Environmental Commission has provided advice and guidance to RFIS in establishing their outdoor environmental classroom

Members of the Environmental Commission earned over 10 Forestry CEUs qualifying us to submit for certain Sustainable Jersey actions.

The Environmental Commission has written letters of support for RFIS grant requests for their outdoor classroom

The Environmental Commission has written letters of support to the County to provide funds for the purchase of the Holland Property and the property at 130 Old Croton Road.