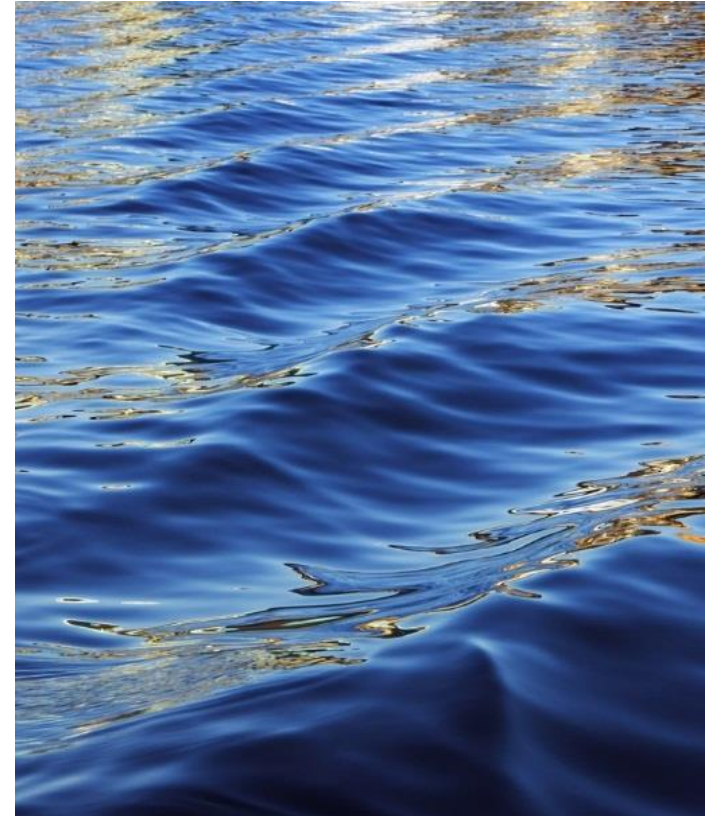




# Evesham Environmental Commission

End-of-Year Presentation to Council  
for 2022

March 8, 2023



# Evesham Environmental Commission (EEC) 2022

Chair: Ila Vassallo

Vice-Chair: Mike Jacob

Secretary: Terri Bracchi

Craig Higginbotham

David Lieberman

Matt McCann

Janet Rolnick

Mike Staff

Hilary Trotman

Doug Wallner

Council Liaison: Councilwoman Pat Hansen

# TEAMWORK!

Thank you to the our elected officials and the township departments and employees who made our accomplishments possible

- Mayor and Council
- Township Manager and Township Manager's Office
- Community Development
- Public Works
- Open Space and Recreation
- Public Information Office
- Grants Writers
- Our council liaison: Pat Hansen

## Thank You!

# In 2022, the Evesham EC made it happen!!!

## OPEN SPACE

- Spent at least two months and a copious number of hours researching and identifying land parcels for acquisition
- Provided our land parcel acquisition recommendations to the township which will be included in the updates to the OSRP
- At the request of The Garden Club of Marlton, worked to help them apply for a tree grant

## SITE PLAN REVIEWS

- Reviewed and provided comments on at least a half-dozen site applications and attended most of the meetings for which we provided comments

## CROFT FARM

- Mowed the perimeter around Croft Farm during the summer months
- Monitored 6 nest boxes at Croft Farm
- Reported monthly on the birds at Croft Farm

## OUTREACH

- Coordinated and participated in the annual tree giveaway
- Performed stream assessments and stream cleanups in the Rancocas Watershed
- Offered a rain barrel workshop for the community teaming with up with the Watershed Ambassador program
- Officially opened New Road Trail
- Led a guided tour of New Road Trail for 20+ attendees
- Applied for, received and planted a sapling from the historic Salem Oak Tree
- Tabled at Night Out
- Developed an information flyer for the Evesham EC to be used at tabling events and for display on the EC's web page

## GRANTS

- Applied for and received a Sustainable Jersey grant for raised bed pollinator gardens at the Community Garden

# In 2022, the Evesham EC made it happen!!! (cont.)

## MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

- At the request of the Open Space and Recreation Department, researched and planted native plants at the municipal building
- Weeded the MUA rain gardens (on numerous occasions)
- Monitored and reported on the newly installed rain gardens at the Blue Barn
- Supported the winterization of the cisterns at the Blue Barn and Kings Grant Fire Station
- Maintained New Road Trail until the township was able to take over
- Maintained the pollinator garden at Vant Zant park

## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

- Achieved Bronze Certification

## SUBCOMMITTEES

- Instituted 3 subcommittees: Site Plan Review, BRP, and Beagle Club

## ADVISORY CORRESPONDENCE

- Made the following recommendations to the township:
  - Recommended solar on the driving range changes and native plants
  - Recommended that the township write a letter of support in opposition to the LNG terminal in Gibbstown
  - Recommended reduced mowing on the open space across from New Road Trail entrance
  - Recommended our design preferences and preferred focus on less development and more open space at the Beagle Club

## FBRP

- Acted as liaison to the FBRP
- Developed a draft flowchart to support a process for reviewing proposals from the FBRP
- Reviewed and commented on the FBRP's Restoration Project at the BRP





Community Impact Award

## MEET THE EEC

Evesham Environmental Commission

### About Us

**The Evesham Environmental Commission:**

- Created by the Township Council in 1978 for the protection, development, or use of natural resources within Evesham Township.
- Comprised of seven regular and two alternate members, who are appointed by the mayor.
- Provides recommendations to the Township Council concerning open space, water resources, air pollution control, solid waste management, soil and landscape protection, and protection of flora and fauna.
- Advisory to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment in the case of development applications and land use.
- Conducts research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the municipality and maintains an index of all open spaces.
- Develops / updates a Shade Tree Master Plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs along the streets, in parks and in other public places.
- Provides an annual report to the governing body.

### Learn More

**EEC's Webpage:**  
[evesham-nj.org/boards/environmental](http://evesham-nj.org/boards/environmental)

**EEC's Code:** ecode560.com/11961895

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." - John Muir

### Around Town

**Successful Initiatives of the EEC:**

- Providing recommendations for Evesham's Township Council, Planning Board, and Zoning Board to ensure the preservation and care of Evesham's environment
- Rain garden, bird box, and/or pollinator garden installations at the Blue Barn, Elmwood MUA, Croft Farm, Evesboro Downs, Evesham Municipal Building, and Van Zant Open Space Area
- Free Tree Giveaways, providing over 1,000 saplings (and counting) for local residents, courtesy of the NJ DEP
- Partnerships with other organizations, such as the Friends of the Black Run Preserve, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, local Girl Scouts, and others



New Road Trail Opening



New Road Trail Guided Hike

Information Flyer



Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification



EV Event

## EVESHAM TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY STREAM ASSESSMENT & CLEANUP

Saturday, April 30th at 1PM

Location: Cambridge Park,  
Evesham, NJ 08053  
(39°54'06.4"N 74°54'54.8"W)

Please email Mark Bassett  
([BassettM@evesham-nj.gov](mailto:BassettM@evesham-nj.gov)) to sign up!

Stream Clean Up and Assessment





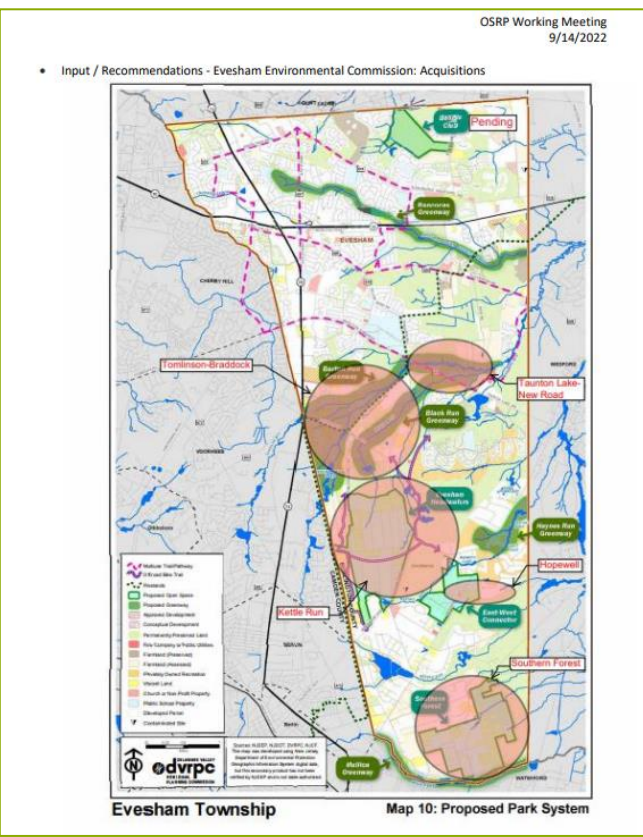
Beagle Club Concept Design Meetings and Recommendations



Service Award



Eco-Seminar



Recommended Parcels for Preservation as part of update to the township's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)



Salem Oak



Supported Green Infrastructure Work



In 2022, the Chair of the Evesham  
Environmental Commission estimated that  
the commissioners collectively spent  
over 500 volunteer hours



# Evesham Environmental Commission

## Priorities for 2023

- Updates to the Tree Ordinance
- Support the final publication of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)
- Review and comment on Site Plans and FBRP projects
- Include a student liaison to the Environmental Commission (EC)
- Maintenance Manual for green infrastructure and selected open spaces area
- Final report for Croft Farm post the 18-month pilot
- Attend council meetings and speak on EC's accomplishments as they occur
- Open the Croft Farm walking path to the public

We will supplement our priorities with:

- our usual *education and outreach* activities like the tree give away, tabling events, requests for informational signs, native plantings, etc. and
  - *maintenance activities* for various open space initiatives that we have initiated

# Evesham Environmental Commission Meetings

- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month (unless a holiday, then 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)
- 6:30 pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B of the municipal building
- Dates are on the township's website
- Evesham Environmental Commission's web page on township site:

<https://evesham-nj.org/boards/environmental> -

## Remember: There is no Planet B!

**"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."**

**-John Muir**

**"We have become the impatient species, too busy to let nature replenish itself and too puffed up with our own sense of importance to acknowledge our utter dependence on its generosity."**

**-David Suzuki**