



RED BANK

Environmental Commission

2017 ANNUAL REPORT RED BANK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Red Bank Environmental Commission (RBEC) was established by ordinance in 1990 and is comprised of volunteer Red Bank residents appointed by the Mayor and is consistent with NJ state laws creating environmental commissions.

RBEC advises the mayor, Borough Council, borough Administrator, and municipal department heads on environmental issues that may affect the natural resources and inhabitants of the community including but not limited to solid waste management and recycling, energy conservation and renewable energy, storm water management, preservation and use of parks and open spaces, clean water water resources, and protection of flora, fauna, soil and landscape throughout the Borough. Additionally, the commission reviews and comments on the building and development applications for the Planning and Zoning Boards.

RBEC met two times per month and all RBEC meetings were opened to the public as we encouraged public participation and action in our discussions, programs and projects.

RBEC MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Frank Corrado | Chair |
| Kate Triggiano | Vice Chair |
| Michael Paul Raspanti | |
| Bruce Siegell | |
| Helena Blyskun | |
| Laura Dardi | |
| Travers Martin | |
| Michael Fisher | Alternate |
| Pat Pinto | Alternate |
| Mark Taylor | Council Liaison |

RBEC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY (SJ): With our bronze status expiring at the end of 2016, RBEC focused on renewing our bronze status with SJ. In November 2017, RBEC confirmed the renewal of our bronze status which now expires at the end of 2019. We plan to work toward silver status next year and additionally earn Gold Star recognition.

Highlights for a more sustainable Red Bank in completing 18 action items across 9 categories in the SJ program included (+Red Bank Resolution passed by Council):

- Green Recognition Business Program+
- * Establish Red Bank Green Team and Creative Team to work with RBEC on SJ and other RBEC projects and Programs+
- * Tree & Woodlands Management - supported and managed by the Red Bank Shade Tree Committee

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH: RBEC held several community educational workshops and events for the residents of Red Bank and neighboring townships. Our workshops and events were developed and executed to improve the health and well being of our citizens and municipal employees as well as to inform the public of improved environmental and sustainable quality of life issues. All events were promoted on the RBEC website page, Red Bank Borough events calendar, RBEC Facebook page and in local online and press media. All events were held at a regularly scheduled RBEC meeting in borough hall except for the Electric Car event that was held on a Sunday afternoon in the borough parking lot.

2017 Community Events and Workshops:

- Monmouth Conservation Foundation: On April 11, 2017, Bill Kastning, Executive Director, Monmouth Conservation Foundation (MCF), presented information on how MCF could provide assistance and possibly fund a portion of Sunset Park Project under the right conditions: greenscaping throughout park would be a condition where fund from MCF would be required
- Clean Water Action: On May 9, 2017, Amy Goldsmith, NJ State Director, Clean Water Action, presented actions taken for the “ReThink Disposable Program” and discussed the cost savings for businesses, goboxpdx.com for reusable to-go boxes, industrial composting of food waste, strategies for source reduction that included the “resist the straw program”. (Special note: Ms. Goldsmith was selected by Governor-Elect Phil Murphy to serve on the transition team to represent environmental issue facing NJ.)

- Electric Car Event: On May 21, 2017, the RBEC hosted the first Electric Car Event in the Red Bank borough parking lot. This event was designed to raise awareness and to promote alternatives to fossil-fuel powered vehicles. Circle BMW and George Wall Ford provided 4 vehicles along with staff offering test drives, education and information on all vehicles. Approximately 10 Red Bank residents proudly displayed their electric vehicles and were on hand to discuss advantages of their electric cars.

The RBEC and Clean Water Action were on hand to discuss their respective programs in the community. Monmouth Arts provided arts & craft eco-friendly projects for children who attended the event.

- Mosquitoes! A talk with Vicki Thompson, Acting Superintendent of Monmouth County Mosquito Control, was held on August 22, 2017. Ms. Thompson discussed mosquito control, updated disease information that is spread by mosquitoes and ticks and the many preventative steps all residents should take,
- Bike and Pedestrian Safety: By far our most attended event of the year - drawing more than 30 residents from Red Bank and neighboring towns of Fair Haven and Little Silver. Our expert panel led the discussion which is of utmost importance to the community based on the attendance and conversation. Discussion was moderated by our RBEC Chair, Frank Corrado. On the panel:
 1. Kate Triglianno, Vice Chair, RBEC, who presented the findings from the RBEC online survey prior to event
 2. Cliff Keen, Head of Dept. of Public Works, Red Bank
 3. Darren McConnell, Chief of Police, Red Bank Police Dept.
 4. Matt Ehrenreich, Traffic Supervisor, Red Bank Police Dept.
 5. Matt Berdahl, CME, Red Bank Borough Engineer
 6. Joseph Ettore, P.E., Monmouth County Engineer

It was a lively discussion touching on a wide variety of subjects poor lighting on streets especially on the west site, uneven street pavements, the need for more bike lanes on both Red Bank and county roads, closing of streets, education programming, narrow street lanes and more.

RBEC intends to hold more sessions on this subject in 2018.

PARKS, WILDLIFE & CLEANUPS:

- RBEC was invited by Clean Water Action to participate on April 22 & October 21, 2017, clean up event in the Maple Cove
- In collaboration with Rally for the Navesink, RBEC was invited to participate on April 27, 2017, in monitoring various sites in collection of water samples for testing. This

routine sampling provides more consistent data of water levels for the borough and other towns along the Navesink River.

- RBEC hosted a Back To School Grounds Cleanup on August 26, 2017, at the Red Bank Primary School. RBEC, Green Team were joined by faculty, family and students and other residents in weeding, picking up litter, and making sure the lot was ready for the first day of school.
- Plans for Bellhaven and Sunset Parks continue to evolve. Members of the RBEC have met with Red Bank Council and community leaders to discuss remediation and capping contamination. RBEC has also offered suggestion on eco-friendly place ground, nature trails, flora & fauna, nature observation deck and other eco-minded ideas.

PLAN REVIEWS:

Reviewed dozen of building plans and open space development for 2017 and presented comments to the Municipal Planning and Zoning Boards for best environmental practices. RBEC often suggested increased open space and set back, rain gardens, increased use of native trees and plants, use of pervious materials replacing commonly used asphalt and use of green building practices when possible.

Development reviews included but not limited to:

- Count Basie Theatre expansion
- Two Rivers Theatre expansion
- Juanitos new development
- Sunset Park
- Bellhaven Park
- White Street parking and redevelopment
- Azalea Gardens
- Hampton Inn

MEMBERSHIPS:

Red Bank is a signatory to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The commission is also a member of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).

