

## BOROUGH OF MEDFORD LAKES, NEW JERSEY

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORK SESSION MEETING (7:00pm)

**August 25, 2025**

A scheduled work session meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Medford Lakes, New Jersey, was held on Monday, August 25, 2025, beginning at 7:00pm in Oaks Hall located at Municipal Cabin, 1 Cabin Circle, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055. Chairman Carl Pellegrino read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and called attendance.

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*(Each public body shall keep reasonably comprehensible minutes of all its meetings showing the time and place, the members present, the subjects considered, the actions taken, the vote of each member, and any other information required to be shown in the minutes by law. "Reasonably comprehensible" does not mean "comprehensive." Minutes are not transcripts. The minutes should reflect the actions taken and the discussion at a meeting so that a member of the public can understand what occurred. The minutes are not intended to be a verbatim recitation of a public meeting)*

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After calling the meeting to order and reading the public notice statement, Chairman Carl Pellegrino provided a summary of the rules of OPMA, as had been described by Borough Clerk McIntosh during the July 28 work session for benefit of members and other attendees who were not present during that meeting. Member Mike Keating also contributed to explanation of the rules of OPMA.

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	PRESENT	ABSENT		PRESENT	ABSENT
Chairman Carl Pellegrino	X		Member Carole Nilson-Marchitello	X	
Member Mike Keating	X		Member Victoria Molloy-Tuck	X	
Member Steve Bruder	X		Alternate 1 Erin Uth	X	
Member Jim Palmer	X		Alternate 2 Yvonne Schaefer		X
Member Jenn Ruegg		X			

In addition to members of the Environmental Commission, the meeting was also attended by residents Karen Leeberman (representing the Medford Lakes Garden Club), Robin Samuelian, and Diane Fau. Ms. Fau described her background as being a Certified Gardener with the Camden County Sustainability Program Office and has experience with outreach efforts.

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### OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Pellegrino opened discussion on the Green Shield Program, which is described as a community-led initiative promoting sustainable practices that protect and enhance our local environment. The program is rooted in the unique ecology of the lake filled community. The program encourages effective storm water management, native plant landscaping, wildlife conservation, smart water practices

and responsible energy use. The goal of the program is to reduce pollution, protect water quality, discourage harmful pesticide use and foster a healthier, more resilient ecosystem. Through education, recognition and support; the Medford Lakes Green Shield Program will empower residents, businesses and organizations to take meaningful action toward a cleaner, greener and more sustainable community.

Prior to the meeting, Steve Bruder had shared an updated draft of the checklist to be used for the Green Shield program, which was included as part of the August 25, 2025 meeting agenda. There was discussion on continued development of the program, of which the substance was predominantly centered on matters related to implementation and roll-out of the program, rather than further deliberation of the point values assigned and specific language for criteria to be used in the program. There was also a significant amount of reiterating of previous discussions of the development of the program. There was broad consensus that much of the implementation discussions were premature for current state of Green Shield development, but that such efforts should continue in a parallel track to development of the Green Shield criteria.

Karen Leeberman suggested that subcommittees should be created for focus on program implementation matters, as the criteria development continues. There was broad consensus by the Environmental Commission to do so, and the following three subcommittees were established:

- Marketing/Community Outreach
  - Members: Vicki Tuck, Carole Nilsen, Erin Uth
  - Subcommittee mission:
    - Develop recommendations for marketing and outreach for Green Shield program, once ready
    - Develop recommendations for design and specifications of the plaque, including language inscription
- Green Shield Webform Development
  - Members: Steve Bruder, Carl Pellegrino
  - Subcommittee mission:
    - Research methods and tools for creation of web-enabled survey for residents to complete
- Green Shield Education and Associated Links
  - Members: Karen Leeberman, Steve Bruder
  - Subcommittee mission:
    - Research and identify web links for community education associated with Green Shield criteria

Vicki Tuck raised the topic of availability of Rutgers landscape architects for residential rain garden design support, and that there is potential for grants to be made available under Landscape Makeover Program later this fall.

**ACTION ITEMS** – On August 25, 2025, all members and program design participants had received a copy of the revised scoring and criteria description resulting from the July 28, 2025 work session. The following time line was agreed upon for continued review of checklist:

- All MLEC members and Green Shield program design participants will provide any comments on the August 25, 2025 draft checklist and provide any comments/edits to Steve Bruder and Carl Pellegrino by September 8, 2025

- Steve Bruder will provide an updated draft checklist to all MLEC members and Green Shield program design participants by September 15, 2025
- All MLEC members and Green Shield program design participants will review draft checklist for discussion and finalization at the September 23, 2025 MLEC meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

In addition to discussions related to the Green Shield program development, Ms. Samuelian had asked about the role of the Environmental Commission as related to a chronic problem regarding stormwater from an adjacent property having an adverse impact on her property, asking whether the MLEC could provide some help. Mr. Pellegrino explained the role of the MLEC as an advisory body and Mr. Keating explained that there is a borough stormwater ordinance and that she should discuss the situation with Borough Manager R. Burton. It was explained that stormwater regulation is not a direct MLEC duty and the MLEC does not have a direct role in the matter. No new business associated with this matter was taken.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Palmer motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Pellegrino.

### **VOTE TO ADJOURN**

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Chairman Carl Pellegrino		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			
Member Mike Keating			<b>X</b>			
Member Steve Bruder			<b>X</b>			
Member Jim Palmer	<b>X</b>					
Member Jenn Ruegg					<b>X</b>	
Member Carole Nilson-Marchitello			<b>X</b>			
Member Victoria Molloy-Tuck			<b>X</b>			
Alternate 1 Erin Uth			<b>X</b>			
Alternate 2 Yvonne Schaefer					<b>X</b>	