

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 19, 2022

The Lavallette Environmental Committee held a meeting on October 19th, 2022, 1:00 pm at Boro Hall. In attendance: Dave Finter, Mark Speaker, Donna Franzosa, Patricia Hoffman, Barbara Susino

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

Garbage and recycling overflows are continual, by some business in town, although reality is that the garbage and recycling bins are on town property, hence Lavallette DPW must pick it up every morning. Dunkin' Donuts is the worst offender, although they have a dumpster on premises, which could easily handle a few dumps from the bins on the sidewalk, every day. Business owners are often afraid to add responsibilities and requests of their employees, for fear of losing the help they have.

Shredded paper cannot be placed in recycling bins. The reason is that anything accepted as recycling must be classified as something that can be reused and shredded papers cannot be reused for anything worthwhile.

Jersey Mikes is an LBA member in good standing.

PROPERTY RENTAL INSPECTIONS AND LEAD PAINT TESTING INSPECTIONS

Lead paint testing as part of the new State law will apply to rental homes and to homes for sale. Only 66 companies are licensed to perform lead paint testing in NJ. These 66 companies are listed on the NJ State website. Lead leaching into drinking water and in paint is now the focus, whereas mold and radon used to be more of a focus. Every can of paint has a tax levied upon sale that goes into a lead fund. Gov. Christie used up that fund when he was in office by putting the money into a general fund for State Budget use.

NJ Lead paint inspections fall into categories as determined by the State of NJ. Lavallette's category is a "visual inspection". This means that when inspections are performed, chips or physical samples of the paint do not need to be retrieved. Visual assessments are enough to pass or fail the lead paint inspection. The areas most noted for breaking down paint are doors, windows and kitchen cabinets due to friction and forces. Any rental house built pre-1978 or before needs to be tested every two years and no house can be sold without a negative test.

Lead competes with calcium in the body and as small children are growing lead gets incorporated in their bones instead of calcium. Lead accumulates in tissues over time and brain damage occurs.

Any rental house or dwelling has to be tested. It is not known whether this excludes weekly rentals that add up to 6 months overall or one renter for 6 months. This was not established and needs further investigation. Winter rentals for instance would fit this category of 6 months.

Toms River has data on all rental property, so their lead inspections will likely just be added to the existing data base they have, whereas Lavallette has never required rental property inspections, so a data base will need to be compiled which takes time, money and effort and will most likely require a full time employee. Insurance, rental inspection checklists and lead inspections are the first and foremost focuses and requirements to add to a database at first.

Some of the issues that were discussed were the following:

1. Should a private contractor be hired to accumulate and sort data?
2. Realtors in town already have a private database of rentals, but BRBs and VRBOs all need to be registered as well.
3. What is the definition of a “rental unit:
4. Lead safe certificates are good for 2 years
5. The 66 companies authorized to perform valid lead paint inspections are listed on the NJ State website titled “NJ Lead”
6. Occupancy numbers may need to be determined and clarified for rental units
7. Research other companies that already perform lead testing to gather information before inspections are performed for data
8. On Lavallette.org you can find the current “resale check list” for reference

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Lavallette will, at first, find a spot for 2 electric vehicle chargers. They will most likely be most beneficial near the First Aid building and firehouse. There is a transformer close to this area as well. Credit cards will be used for payment. The pro-active move to create these stations should be accomplished sooner rather than later as more and more people will be owning vehicles that are in need for these stations. Some charging units are faster than others. That will need to be investigated further. Home charging usually takes up to 8 hours whereas some commercial only take 2.

TOWN WIDE TRASH COLLECTIONS/ROBO AND TIPPER CANS

Two new garbage truck chassis are being purchased and can be fitted for semi-automated waste and recycling collection. Robo cans used in Toms River communities are a bit too cumbersome to be used by our trucks on our side streets to the “tipper” version can be retro-fitted on the new trucks. To utilize the tipper cans correctly there will be 3 workers needed on the trucks, same as currently utilized.

Two cans would be given to homeowners by Lavallette at no charge. The choice is either a 65 or a 95 gallon container. If a homeowner finds he or she needs more cans they will need to be purchased at approximately 130 dollars a can (2019). Chips will be imbedded in each can with the address it was issued to and therefore cannot be easily taken for use by someone else. Empty cans are supposed to be stable in up to 45 mph winds. This town wide project would take a while to accomplish but is the future for garbage and recycling collection town wide.

In the future Robo can removal systems will probably be the norm in all towns. Right now it is not feasible but Robo can system only requires 1 person on the garbage or recycling truck as opposed to 3. Labor is either non-existent or poor quality and there is not much hope that the scenario will change in our society. A grant for purchase cannot be counted on currently.

PROPERTY SUMP PUMP DISCHARGE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are approximately 14 houses in Lavallette that use sump pumps creating water discharge right into the street to run down the street to the storm sewer. Sump pumps designed like this should be discontinued in Lavallette and anyone who has one would have to find a way to change the method of getting rid of unwanted water in their basements and crawl spaces. As the water table continues to rise, existing basements will likely need to be filled in.

French drains to gravel is one idea to drain discharge and be reabsorbed but this would need to be carried out by a design yet to be created by an engineer or DPW or both.

WEEDS along the public walkways was a topic. Most businesses are compliant with taming weeds but there are some places in business district zones that are not maintaining public lands well. This will be revisited in future meetings.

OFFSHORE WIND FARMS AND TURBINES

Councilman Finter and Mark Speaker recently attended a presentation on offshore wind farms. In 2005 the first lease for turbine wind power cost \$800,000. And today a lease for the same costs 4 billion dollars. Windfarms are approximately 5 miles out. For perspective when you can see a trash barge out at sea that is 6 miles out, so windfarms will definitely be seen.

Cruise ships are about 200 feet high. Turbines are 1000 feet above water. A typical windfarm contains 100 turbine units.

Island Beach State Park parking lot #2 will have a feeder cable running under it from the wind turbines at sea to the Lacey Nuclear Plant that will be used to transfer that energy to the same areas that nuclear derived energy had been utilized. In the past.

A Danish or Swedish company lead the windfarms and turbines industry, although the parts are required to be made in America.

Blades are enormous and warning lights will be placed on top of the turbines to alert planes. Turbines lives are relatively short lived and abandonment has been a problem. The windfarms are going to be constructed on the east coast.

WATERFOWL AND WILDLIFE FEEDING

There is an ordinance in town against feeding wildlife on public property, but no ordinance relating to private property. Lavallette is one of only a few towns that does not have a private property non-feed ordinance in place.

A quick search on Google brings up many valid reasons for not feeding waterfowl in particular. The waterways become contaminated with feces; their health disintegrates as most people feed them corn and they do not thrive on corn. Rodents eat the leftover foods that are left by renters and homeowners and then multiply. Wildlife and waterfowl forget how to forage for food on their own. If fed by humans, and many humans only feed them in the warmer months this leaves them to starve in colder months. Duck, geese and swans are especially vulnerable including private home in Lavallette and Ortlely.

The boardwalk needs repairs. There are many, many areas that cause tripping currently. Board replacement has been a recent conversation at the council meetings.

Future meetings to be determined. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.