Demarest Environmental Commission Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 2026
7:00 PM
118 Serpentine Road, Demarest, NJ 07627

I. **Open Meeting**

"This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of NJ."

II. Attendance

The following committee members were present: Noelle Tutunjian, Angela Rodin, David Lerner. Absent committee member: Ted Alevrontas, James Chang, Rajiv Krishnamurthy

III. Old Business

a. Invasive species: borough arborist still needs to come to a meeting. His visit was postponed last month. still unclear whether he expects to be paid for his service.

IV. New Business

a. Municipal energy audit
   -we were joined by Jon Nichols
   -the EC reviewed the Boro's current bills. They're lump sum and hard to discern.
   -utility companies provide incentives to customers including municipalities.
   -next step we want DPW/someone familiar with Demarest facilities to set up a meeting with PSE&G small business program to walk thru facilities.
   -PSE&G would produce a report and offer programs for upgrades - all of the above is free - there are other more complex approaches that likely require cash spend by Demarest - EC agrees to start with an easy topic - lighting. This can also be used to help educate residents about programs offered by utilities.

b. Demarest Day - food compost
   -EC secured a table to hand out materials and equipment and advertise the program - launch of new member equipment incentive. EC agreed using this incentive to retain existing members is worthwhile too.
   -consider permanent shed to house tote?
   -talk to Neighborhood Compost about lock/shed, what do other towns do?

c. Styrofoam recycling
   -Noelle spoke with Ridgewood DPW. They have a Styrofoam densifier to create bricks.
   -if Demarest wants to partner with Ridgewood we need to pay for Ridgewood to accept Styrofoam

d. 2027 budget discussion
   -why is the EC supporting garden club?
   -instead maybe support a native plants garden. Angela to speak with Garden Club.
   -focus on plastic use reduction. Community education is needed.
   -other budget items: social media, educational materials, EC contests, SOAR, grow food compost

V. Adjourn Meeting

Motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting