

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the
Englewood Environmental Commission**

September 8, 2025

Location: Jack Drakeford Englewood Firehouse
81 S. Van Brunt Street, Englewood, NJ 07631

Scheduled Date: September 8, 2025

Scheduled Time: 7:15 pm

Commissioners Present: Crystal Brown (Chairman)
Kevin Lake (Vice-Chairman)
June Gregg (8:00 pm)
Daniel Hoey
Erin Thomas
Mary Truesdale (7:29 pm)

Commissioners Absent: Jack Silberman

Invited Guests Present: Besim Tonuzi (Engineering Inspector)
Steven Weissner (Flat Rock Brook Liaison – 7:29 pm)

**Members of the
Public Present:** Andrea Carter

Presiding Commissioner: Crystal Brown

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Andrea Carter, a member of the public, took notes of the Meeting. Crystal Brown expressed her gratitude, on behalf of the EEC, to Andrea for doing so.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:21 pm, a roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following Subcommittee Updates were then provided by the following individuals, and discussion followed:

Mayor's Monarch Challenge (Daniel Hoey):

Daniel Hoey reported as follows:

- Daniel emailed Robert Hoffman, the City Manager, requesting access to the funds that were granted to the EEC by ANJEC in connection with the Mayor's Monarch Challenge. According to Mr. Hoffman, the City Council is working on an ordinance to release those funds to the EEC.
- Daniel is preparing a draft stating "Do Not Destroy Plants", or words to that effect, with a QR code and a link to information about the plants planted in each garden.
- Daniel is investigating the possibility of obtaining a large water bucket to water the plants around Englewood.
- Crystal Brown suggested that the EEC tie this project into "storm water maintenance" by showing and encouraging Englewood's residents to plant rain gardens.

Flat Rock Brook Nature Center (Steven Wiessner):

Steve Wiessner reported as follows:

- Summer camp at Flat Rock was a success and is now concluded.
- The Grand Opening and ribbon cutting for the Jones Road Park is scheduled to be held at Flat Rock on Tuesday, October 16th, at 4:30 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Flat Rock's Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 5th, with a rain date of Sunday, October 12th. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Planning Board / Master Plan (Erin Thomas):

Erin Thomas reported as follows:

- An application for the construction of a medical building on Armory Street was denied by the Planning Board due to insufficient parking.
- The construction of an apartment building between Tallman Place and Demarest Avenue is being considered.

Kevin Lake suggested (i) formal recognition by the City of Englewood of the Bacoat and Third Street Gardens, and (ii) a plaque explaining the historic significance of both gardens.

Crystal Brown noted that the Bacoat Garden needs a new fence.

Trees / Tree Removal Permits (Besim Tonuzi):

Besim Tonuzi reported as follows:

- An application for a Tree Removal Permit is pending for 231 North Woodland.
 - Kevin Lake requested that the Liz Stewart, Englewood's City Arborist, review and comment on the application.
- 19 Ivy Lane submitted a new application and plans for the removal of more trees.

The following topics were then address by the following individuals, and discussion followed:

National Honey Bee Day (Kevin Lake):

Kevin Lake reported as follows:

- Englewood's National Honey Bee Day Celebration was a success; honey from the Third Street Garden apiary was distributed to attendees.

Department of Health Fair (Crystal Brown):

Crystal Brown reported as follows:

- Members of the EEC are planning and encouraged to attend the Englewood Health Department Health Fair which is scheduled to be held on Sunday, October 5th, at McKay Park from 1 pm - 5 pm, with a rain date of Sunday, October 12th. Honey from the Third Street Garden apiary will be distributed by members of the EEC to attendees.

Third Street Garden (Crystal Brown):

Crystal Brown reported as follows:

- Crystal Brown reported that there will be a workday at the Third Street Garden on Saturday, September 13th. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Crystal Brown thanked the not-for-profit organization Broreavement for all of their hard work at the Third Street Garden and for donating a shed to the Third Street Garden.

There was no New Business or Public Comment.

Crystal Brown then announced that the next EEC Meeting will be held on October 20th due to the Columbus Day Holiday occurring on October 13th.

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, the Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kevin J. Lake
Vice Chairman