

Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026

Mary Ellen Hennessy-Jones (standing in for Kathi Caccavale) called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M.

STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting of the Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee (SMAC) was provided by transmitting a copy of the meeting notice to the Madison Eagle and Morris County Daily Record, posting a copy on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the Hartley Dodge Memorial, and filing a copy in the office of the Clerk. This notice was made available to members of the general public.”

The following members acknowledged their presence:

Kathleen Caccavale, Chairperson/Regular Member
Susan Bailey, Resident/Regular Member
Anna Bradshaw, Resident/Regular Member
Tom Haralampoudis, Borough Council Liaison/Regular Member
Mary Ellen Hennessy-Jones, Resident/Regular Member
Pam Hogan, Resident/Regular Member

Absent:

David Duran, School Board Liaison
Peter Fried, Resident/Regular Member
Han Yan, Advisory Member, Drew University
Deanna Schmidt, MEC Liaison, Resident/Regular Member

The January 2026 minutes were approved.

Reports:

Madison Environmental Commission

On Feb 23 *How Birding Can Change the World* will be presented. Sign up details are in the MEC newsletter.

On April 14 “Plant This not that” author talk at the Chase Room of the Library 7pm.

MEC is not planning to table at Green & Clean but will focus on habitat maintenance at Gibbons Pines, the MRC Forest and the BOE pollinator habitat.

May 2nd is the Town-Wide Yard Sale MEC will participate in the sale to benefit the Drew Forest and Arbor Day will be celebrated that day.

Madison Shade Tree Management Board

The Board is purchasing new spring street trees. Residents interested in having a new street tree planted within the borough right-of way by their house should contact the Department of Public Works.

The Board is planning to apply for a \$5000 Green Communities Grant from the NJ Forest Service to develop a new 5-Year Madison Community Forestry Management Plan.

Borough Council

A property assessment of property is required by Morris County Open Space Act. A submission date extension for this documentation has been requested (April 30, 2026). A local, professional engineer, has been engaged to complete the work. Borough administration anticipates approval of this request.

Snow removal and de-icing methods were commented on. The extended cold period is expected to limit mosquito infestation this year.

A resolution authorizing the Sustainable grant application to Sustainable Jersey for \$2K was approved at the most recent Council meeting.

Chair

On February 2nd Kathi and Pam were guests at Han Yan's *Social Determinants of Health* class at Drew. Students were encouraged to lend support to the preparation of Sustainable Jersey actions and increase their community knowledge. They were invited to gain service hours by working with specific community groups and interviewing community leaders involved in the 2023 Equity and Diversity action plan with questions focused on the progress made since that time.

Ryan Furry is leaving Borough employment on February 20th to start his own environmental company.

Han Yan and Drew student Frankie Mailley have stepped in to help with the RGGI grant requirements.

Invasive Species legislation was recently signed by Governor Murphy; this strengthens Madison's SJ/PSEG \$2,000 grant application.

Giralda Redevelopment Plan #3 hearing on February 3rd had only one participant from the public; the next hearing is tonight at 7:30 via Zoom. The presentation and information on the plan can be found on the Planning Board page on Rosenet (<https://www.rosenet.org/457/Planning-Board>)

Following the Planning Board meeting announcement (cited above) additional comments and information were shared about Rose Hall and the future Giralda

redevelopment projects under consideration; comments included both actual and potential impact on traffic, local business and the public school system.

Grant Updates:

Senior Bus acquisition, no update.

School solar panels application for a study will be completed in 1 month.

SJ/PSEG \$10K Electric Landscaping Equipment Grant – Equipment is expected to be in place for this Spring/Summer season.

RGGI Natural Climate Solutions Grants - Han Yan and Frankie Mailley of Drew are assisting with mapping

SJ/PSEG grant for \$2K – MEC member Kirsten Wallenstein provided project plans and details for the 2026 The “Native Shrub Swap” grant. The grant application was submitted on February 13, 2026 by Pam Hogan.

2026-27 Action Initiatives:

New Regular Members Susan Bailey and Anna Bradshaw, discussed the action plans that piqued their interest. Waste management, composting, native plants and the community garden came up as action topics of interest for further investigation and consideration. Mentors, including current and past SM members, with experience and knowledge on these specific actions were identified and they will be contacted to assist the new members.

Other Business:

There was a general discussion about *Green and Clean Day*.

A Save the Date announcement was made about the 2026 NJ Sustainability Summit taking place on May 15th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The presentation on sustainability by Kaela Lansinger, a Madison resident who works for Terracycle is postponed to the March meeting.

Action Items:

The decision was made to consider – prior to the next meeting – actions that can be taken by the Green Team to make the *Green and Clean Day* event more effective. Ideas being considered include clean-up activities and locations that could involve community organizations, such as the local girl and boy scout troops.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Pamela Hogan