

Montclair Environmental Commission plans review of town's streetscape

When you walk around Montclair and take in the streetscape, what adjective comes to mind?

File photo by Adam Anik

By Eric Kiefer

For Martin Schwartz, a member of the Montclair Environmental Commission and the municipal Planning Board, the word used to be "bucolic."

But these days, Schwartz would amend the term to "aging-bucolic," he told The Times.

This is one reason that the Montclair Environmental Commission will be embarking on a townwide review of Montclair's streetscapes during the upcoming month, said Schwartz. Eventually, the municipal advisory group plans to produce a series of reports and recommendations that members will present to the Planning Board and Township Council, which will hopefully be codified and set into municipal purchasing policy.

Up for review will be policies that govern the town's sidewalks, tree plantings, curbs, street lighting, parking lots, recycling containers, park furniture and several other elements.

One of the main goals to the MEC's review will be to preserve the town's "charm," according to Schwartz.

"Over time, without refined policies, we've become a bit of a mess and a hodgepodge out there," Schwartz told The Times. "The intention is to review what we've been doing right, and see where we can make improvements."

Third Ward Township Councilmember Sean Spiller, who is the council liaison to the MEC, stated that preserving Montclair's "aesthetic appeal" and "quality of life" is an important consideration.

"I'm curious to see what they come up with," Spiller told The Times.

Schwartz said the MEC will be soliciting input from the public throughout the process.

Residents who are unable to attend hearings can send information and feedback to the MEC's streetscape subcommittee at info@mtcenv.org, under the subject heading "streetscapes."

