

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of March 16, 2005
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Arnold Henderson, Laurel Kornfeld, Anthony Puniello,
Mary Ellen Tuccillo

Absent: Jonathan Abrahams, Gabor Grunstein, Loren Muldowney

Guest: Kara Van Blarcum

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:20 PM.
2. The minutes of the February 16, 2005 were approved.
3. Correspondence—None
4. Site Plans
 - a) Bor-John, LLC (addendum)
254 South Seventh Avenue
Docket No.: # 46-32, 33-04
Block and Lot: B-46, L-32 & 33

The applicant is submitting an addendum to an application to build a four-family dwelling. Variances are being sought for minimum side yard setback, maximum building height, maximum lot coverage, and maximum impervious coverage. Comments: Impervious coverage and lot coverage are still excessive. Keep both within the limits permitted by the ordinance. If this is built, direct the stormwater runoff into the landscaping. Setbacks should conform to existing setback requirements.

- b) Commerce Bank, N.A.
Raritan Avenue, North 8th and North 9th Avenue
Docket No.: # 136-20-31-05
Block and Lot: B-136, L-20-31

The applicant is proposing to build a two-story Commerce Bank on the site of Dairy Deluxe and Quality Auto Center. A traffic impact analysis was included with the application.

Comments: We approve of having a dense landscaping as shown but prefer more native species in the mix.

5. Old Business
 - a) “Fast Track” Legislation. Borough Council passed a resolution supporting the repeal of the “Fast Track” law.
 - b) Environmental Education Center. The construction bids that came in for the center were too high, so all were rejected. The borough will re-bid the project.
 - c) Valley Place Ravine. New Jersey Community Water Watch held a stream monitoring class at Valley Place Ravine on February 20. Volunteers determined that the stream’s quality is poor. It scored a five out of a possible 23. This number is based on the types of insects found and how tolerant the species are to pollution. Water Watch has set two dates for additional work at Valley Place

Ravine, Sunday, April 10 and Sunday, April 17. Laurel will contact the HPHS science coordinator to recruit high school students to participate in these cleanups.

- d) ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant. ANJEC is now accepting applications for grants of up to \$20,000, which are funded by the Geraldine Dodge Foundation. Applications are due on April 1. Arnold reported that Gary wants to do a study in connection with Rutgers' energy efficiency analysis for the borough and the green community initiative. Another idea discussed is to study converting the borough landfill from a brownfield to a greenfield. The grant application will be a collaborative effort between the Environmental Commission and the Green Community Working Group.
- e) Highland Park Redevelopment Study. The next Planning Board meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 31. The Board did not vote on the Cleveland study on February 24 and may not do so at its next meeting. Tony noted that the Board may re-notice the hearing on Cleveland Avenue since so much time has passed. The letter Arnold drafted from the Environmental Commission to the Planning Board regarding two lots on Cleveland Avenue has been submitted to Councilman Steve Nolan.
- f) Proposed Raritan River Dredging. No new information.

6. New Business

- a) New Recycling Collection by the Borough. The borough took over recycling from Middlesex County beginning this month. Arnold noted that the borough is unable to include fabric collection, which the county did.
- b) Relay for Life. Laurel informed the Commission that the American Cancer Society is holding an overnight Relay for Life fundraiser at HPHS on May 21-22. The Board of Health is assisting with this project, and everyone is encouraged to volunteer.
- c) Battery Recycling. We noted that battery recycling is done in Highland Park and that batteries should continue to be dropped off at Borough Hall and at the Department of Public Works.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on Wednesday, April 20, 2005 at 8 PM in Borough Hall.