

**Highland Park Environmental Commission**  
Meeting of June 15, 2005  
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Arnold Henderson, Laurel Kornfeld, Anthony Puniello,  
Mary Ellen Tuccillo, Councilman Gary Minkoff  
Absent: Jonathan Abrahams, Gabor Grunstein, Loren Muldowney

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM.
2. The minutes of the May 18, 2005 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence
  - a) The Middlesex County Bicycle Collection project, a division of the Middlesex County Department on Planning, Division of Solid Waste Management, sent notice that they are collecting used bicycles for distribution to those in need. Through their Pedals for Progress project, they also repair used bicycles for distribution. The collection date is June 18 from 12-3 PM at the Middlesex County Vo-Tech in East Brunswick. Those seeking more information should call (732) 745-4170.

4. Site Plans
  - a) FBN Auto Sales  
161 Woodbridge Avenue  
Docket No.: # 99-19, 20-04  
Block and Lot: B-99, L-19-20

This is an addendum to an application that is going to the Zoning Board. The applicant proposes to demolish the existing building and construct a new two-story building. Five variances are being sought for items including setbacks, minimum front yard parking, and maximum impervious coverage. Existing impervious coverage is 55%; proposed is 88%, and maximum allowed by ordinance for this zone is 80%.

Comments: Provide additional vegetation to meet the maximum 80% impervious coverage requirement. Shield lights to restrict light to property and prevent it from going to adjacent properties. Avoid upward light spillage.

5. Old Business
  - a) Plans for Environmental Education Center. We received a copy of a letter from the Freehold Soil Conservation District to the borough saying they reviewed the borough's revisions for the application and found the application incomplete because two new items were not addressed. Arnold noted that the Borough received a \$200,000 grant for a sculpture garden. He suggested that our goal be to use part of it to make the path to the area. The Arts Commission will be involved with the sculpture garden aspect of the project.

- b) Buck Woods Tree Removal. Some trees and other vegetation were removed from the north end of Buck Woods sometime last week. The work has currently been stopped. No permits for this work were issued and the earthmover is still parked at the site. The Borough is looking into the circumstances to determine who is responsible and what can be done to rectify the situation.
- c) Sidewalks and Shade Tree Management. Arnold received a call from a homeowner at 22 Harrison Avenue about a very tall, healthy oak tree scheduled for removal because its roots are lifting the sidewalk, which is scheduled for repair. Last year, we had a certified tree expert look at borough trees and determine whether or not it would be harmful to the tree to grind the root. In this case, the expert said the root should not be ground, and that the tree should be removed. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee wants to make it a standard practice for the Department of Public Works (DPW) to have all alternatives considered before they either grind the roots or remove a tree.

6. New Business

- a) Storm Drain Labeling Guidelines for New Jersey. Arnold brought in a copy of the DEP guidelines. Municipalities are supposed to mark storm drains and create a stormwater management plan. There is a \$5,000 grant available for labeling storm drains; the Environmental Commission might consider applying for this. Tony reported that there are also grants for municipalities to create a stormwater management plan.

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