

Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of September 21, 2005

Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Arnold Henderson, Mary Ellen Tuccillo

Absent: Gabor Grunstein, Loren Muldowney Laurel Kornfeld Anthony Puniello,

Guests: None

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.
2. The minutes of the July 20, 2005 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence
 - a) We received the Waterfront Development Permit and Water Quality Certificate for the Environmental Education Center from NJDEP.
 - b) We received a copy of a letter from Jane Rosenfeld of 221 North 8th Avenue in Edison, that informs us she is applying for a DEP permit to repair existing stream banks (Mill Brook) on her property.
 - c) We received notice from ANJEC about the Annual Environmental Congress on October 21, at Mercer County College.
 - d) We received a copy of a letter from NJDEP to Billy Garret of Harley Davidson at 211 Woodbridge Avenue. The letter contains an approval with conditions for a pilot test using an oxygen release compound to stimulate aerobic biodegradation of contamination at the site.

4. Site Plans

- a) New Athens Corner
28 Woodbridge Avenue
Docket No.: # 50-1-3-05
Block and Lot: B-50, L-1-3

The applicant is seeking site plan approval from the Planning Board to expand operation of a grocery store and to replace a beauty parlor with a bakery/restaurant with outdoor patio and seating area.

No Comments.

- b) Gary Panichella Studio 808
808 Raritan Avenue
Docket No.: # 87-05-05
Block and Lot: B-87, L-05

The applicant is seeking approval from the Zoning Board to construct an addition to an existing health club with a second floor workout area and bathroom.

No Comments.

- c) Benjamin Lapidés
820 Raritan Avenue
Docket No.: # 87-13-05
Block and Lot: B-87, L-13

The applicant is seeking site plan approval from the Planning Board to convert a residential structure to offices.

Comments: The outdoor light fixtures should be shielded to direct the light downwards and prevent off-site light spillage.

- d) Eric and Jeanne Lankin
139 North 6th Avenue
Docket No.: # 140-36-05
Block and Lot: B-140, L-36

The applicant is seeking approval from the Zoning Board to construct a new entryway with vestibule and porch to an existing single-family residence.
No Comments.

- e) Omnipoint
501-505 Raritan Avenue
Docket No.: 142-01-05
Block and Lot: B142, L-05

The applicant is seeking a use variance and height variance from the Zoning Board for a wireless telecommunications facility on the roof of the Ausonia Apartment Building within the CBD zone. The facility would consist of 6 panel antennas, 3 equipment cabinets and screening panels. Sprint, Nextel, and AT&T Wireless already have antennas on this building which is 60 feet tall.
No Comments.

5. Old Business

- a) Plans for Environmental Education Center - The south end of the site has been closed off to parking. Their construction trailer is still located at the site, but construction has not yet started. Soil borings were completed and soil samples of the fill material were collected. A draft report has been prepared by CME Engineers. Construction is pending the results of the soil tests.
- b) Valley Place Ravine - Water Watch did a great job at their workdays at Valley Place Ravine. Water Watch has a web site with pictures of the Valley Place Ravine project.
- c) Buck Woods Tree Removal. The Borough has had discussions with JSM regarding compensation for the trees that were removed. Options are to plant replacement trees or pay money into the tree fund.
- d) Sidewalks and Shade Tree Management. Arnold spoke with the Los Angeles City forester to find out how they are handling this type of situation. Information is being passed along. May be able to divert sidewalks around trees with a narrowed sidewalk width.

6. New Business

- a) The County is moving forward with their plans for dredging the Raritan River. We still don't know what will be done with the dredged sediment.

- 7. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Wednesday, October 19 at 8 PM in Borough Hall.