

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of November 16, 2005
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Gabor Grunstein, Laurel Kornfeld,
Anthony Puniello

Absent: Arnold Henderson, Loren Muldowney, Mary Ellen Tuccillo

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.
2. The minutes of the October 19, 2005 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence
 - a) The New Jersey Water Supply Authority sent a brochure informing us of a free information session they are having on December 14 on the subject of using brine as an environmentally-friendly alternative for winter road maintenance. The session will be held at the Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy in Hillsborough, NJ.
4. Site Plans. None.
5. Old Business
 - a) Environmental Education Center. Two new signs were put up at the site on River Road. One is a New Jersey Green Acres sign, and the other is one that says, "Future Site of the Eugene Young Environmental Education Center." We are looking forward to construction starting soon.
 - b) New Jersey Community Water Watch Valley Place Ravine Restoration. The Water Watch group conducted a cleanup at the Meadows on Sunday, November 6, and they have plans for future cleanups, probably in the spring. They also want to sponsor an Earth Day activity in April. Arnold will meet with the Water Watch representatives to discuss this.
 - c) Raritan River Dredging. Mike spoke with Ralph Albanir, who is responsible for the river-dredging project. The project has been proceeding and should be completed approximately one week after Thanksgiving. Mike reported that Albanir said the dredging is taking slightly longer than originally thought. Five barges are currently working to transport the dredged material. The small barges are filled on the river and taken by tugboat out to the bay. In the deeper bay, the dredged material is transferred to larger barges, which then go to a DEP-approved facility in Jersey City. There, the dredge spoils are sampled to determine if they need to be treated.

- d) Recreational Trails Grant. Highland Park has received a \$10,000 grant from NJDEP for trails in the lower Meadows. Arnold will report further on this at our December meeting.
 - e) Joint Forum with Board of Health. The Commission has agreed to co-sponsor a forum with the Board of Health on the subject of “Keeping an Environmentally Healthy Home for Your Children” on Thursday, December 15 at 7:30 PM in Borough Hall. Dr. Mark Robson of UMDNJ will do an audio-visual presentation. Commission members are encouraged to attend and help spread the word about this event.
 - f) Stormwater Management Plan. We received a copy of the borough’s Stormwater Management Plan at our last meeting. Tony reported that last month, CME Associates presented it to the Planning Board, which then approved it. Gabi reported an error in the section on wellhead protection, noting that the plan says we are near a wellhead protection area, which we are not. Mike said the document contains a lot of summary information and discusses some potential ordinances. We need to get hold of the Freehold Soil Conservation District Standards. Tony said he will bring their erosion control regulations to our next meeting. Meanwhile, we are passing around a copy of the plan to interested Commission members.
 - g) Donaldson Park Improvements. Laurel will contact Ralph Albanir to find out the status of this project.
6. New Business
- a) School Expansion Site Plans. Laurel reported that the superintendent and representatives of the Board of Education presented site plans to the Borough Council for improvements to the high school and Irving School. Tony said the Board also did a presentation on these improvements to the Planning Board. Mike will contact school representatives and ask for copies of the plans so we can review them.
 - b) ANJEC Environmental Leadership Training. Laurel attended the two-day ANJEC Environmental Leadership Training and brought back a lot of useful information. One of the ANJEC publications specifically mentions the Highland Park Environmental Commission for our award-winning web site.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. The next meeting of the Highland Park Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, December 21 at 8 PM in Borough Hall.