

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of December 21, 2005
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Gabor Grunstein, Laurel Kornfeld,
Mary Ellen Tuccillo

Absent: Arnold Henderson, Loren Muldowney, Anthony Puniello

Guest: Allan Williams

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:27 PM.
2. The minutes of the November 16, 2005 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans: None
5. Old Business
 - a) Environmental Education Center. The project is moving forward. A construction fence has been put around the site, and stakes have been put in. We don't know if a second study on soil contamination has been done.
 - b) New Jersey Community Water Watch. Arnold has plans to get in touch with Water Watch for a spring project centered around Earth Day.
 - c) Raritan River Dredging. The work has been stopped by the DEP. Gabi reported that he attended the Raritan Watershed meeting and discussed the dredging with the Riverkeeper, who reported that county workers didn't know how deep the river was and therefore hit bedrock and ripped out pieces of shale. As a result, they went further toward the center of the river. Both of these actions are in violation of the county's permit. Additionally, the bucket lifting the dredge spoils was not closed all the way as is required. The county has been cited for five violations and now needs new permits. The dredging will have to be postponed to the summer because the river could freeze during the winter, and no work can be done during fish spawning season in the spring.
 - d) Board of Health Forum. The Board of Health canceled its December 15 forum on "Keeping An Environmentally Healthy Home for Your Children" due to inclement weather. The event will be rescheduled for a future date.
 - e) Stormwater Management Plan. Laurel currently has the copy of the plan. She will bring it to our next meeting.
 - f) Donaldson Park Improvements. Laurel reported that she spoke to Ralph Albanir of the county Parks Department and that he said work on the improvements has been held up because the county needs a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, which was only received this past October. We questioned why the county needs an Army Corps of Engineers permit for this work. Laurel will call Mr. Albanir again to find out what specific improvements are being made and why the permit is needed. She will also

send Commission members a copy of Freeholder H. James Polos' presentation to the Borough Council on the Donaldson Park project from several years ago.

6. New Business

- a) Board of Education Plans. Mike obtained the Board of Education plans for improvements to Irving School and to the Middle/High School. The Board has already presented their plans to the Planning Board. At the Middle/High School, 30 new parking stalls are being added. Also, a new stormwater basin will be constructed there. We questioned from where the basin will receive runoff. There are also plans to open up the current dead end at Wayne Street to vehicles coming in to the high school to park. Mike will find out the procedure for how we can submit comments to the Board of Education. We discussed having a Board of Education member come to an Environmental Commission meeting and give the same presentation given to the Planning Board.
 - b) 2006 Meetings Calendar. We need to write up the schedule of 2006 meetings and distribute it to local newspapers and the Borough Clerk.
 - c) New Jersey Environmental Primer 2005. Mike ordered 100 copies of this and gave copies out to Commission members. We plan to distribute them at the Street Fair.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 8 PM in Borough Hall.