

**Highland Park Environmental Commission**  
Meeting of November 21, 2007  
Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Michael Rosenberg, Allan Williams  
Absent: Arnold Henderson Gabor Grunstein, Joan Ehrenfeld, Anthony Puniello,  
Guests: None

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:20 PM.
2. The minutes of the October 17, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Correspondence:

We received a copy of a letter from EcolSciences Inc., to the Highland Park Borough Clerk informing us that Edgewood Properties is applying to NJDEP for a Letter of Interpretation. This is for presence or absence of wetlands at a 4.18 acre site at the intersection of South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Graham Street. This is the Buck Woods property. An LOI was previously issued on 7/9/97 and was reissued on 7/3/02. This appears to be something that gets renewed every 5 years. We submitted comments to DEP last time?

We received a copy of a letter from the Middlesex County Department of Planning regarding Belle View, Block 190 Lots 4 and 4.1 in Highland Park. This is the former Cenacle property. The letter contains a resolution from the Middlesex County Planning Board endorsing the proposed project to discharge approximately 30,225 gallons per day to the MCUA treatment plant in Sayreville.

4. Site Plans:

Frank Cala  
308 South Second Avenue  
Block 16 Lot 15

The applicant is requesting permission from the Zoning Board to finish an existing attic. The variance is for expansion of a non-conforming use (two family home). There is no change to the overall footprint and no change of impervious coverage. No Comments.

Millwood Builders Inc.  
18 and 20 Cliff Court  
Block 2, Lots 6 and 7

The applicant is requesting permission from the Planning Board for a subdivision of a large lot, to create two smaller lots. Both new lots will be conforming and will be used for construction of single family homes.

Comments: The applicant should be advised of the new tree protection ordinance. The applicant should also minimize impervious surfaces in order to conform to guidelines for stormwater management.

5. Old Business Items

- a) Environmental Education Center – We now have a certificate of occupancy for the building. The Department of Public Works still needs to install some cabinets. Signs are still needed to identify the building for people passing by. Still need to get copy of

plans, operating manuals, and details from MKW. We will need to know how to operate heating system, special toilet, etc. Fern will ask Karen Waldron about getting the information. Karen Swaine of STAC has volunteered to train DPW about how to weed the green roof. The Police Department is currently the keeper of the building's key. The key may be signed out by going to the Police Department and presenting identification.

- b) Recreational Trail Grant Meadows – The lower meadows trail restoration project was initiated by a 2005 State grant. The trail still needs to be widened and partially buried debris removed. Integrated pest management is being used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for invasive species (multi-flora rose, mugwort, bush honeysuckle) removal. These invasive plants are capable of overgrowing the trail and blotting out desirable native species. 4 volunteers helped this past Sunday. The recreational trail grant deadline is August 2008.
  - c) Highland Park Community Wildlife Habitat Program –The registration process is complete and we will be the third community in New Jersey registered. There are already 17 certified back yards in Highland Park. We all should certify our own backyards by going to the National Wildlife Federation's website. Highland Park already has 135 points for year number 1 of the project. We need 375 points total to certify. The next steps will be to prepare a brochure and to develop a web site which can be linked to the Environmental Commission web site. January 18, kickoff date for the project.
6. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 8 PM in Borough Hall.