

Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of May 21, 2008

Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Arnold Henderson, Michael Rosenberg,
Allan Williams, Councilman Jon Erickson

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Gabor Grunstein

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM., in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the April 16, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. The Environmental Commission currently still has two vacancies. We also still need to choose a member to serve as our liaison to the Planning Board.
4. Correspondence: The 2007 Recycling Tonnage Report for Highland Park. The report was prepared by Frank Troy, the Highland Park Recycling Coordinator. Total tonnage for 2007 was 12,444.19 tons. That total represents both commercial and residential recycling. The single largest item was the category of concrete/asphalt/brick/block which accounted for 8,782.73 tons, approximately 70% of the total by weight.

5. Site Plans:

- a. Dorell Russ
324 Raritan Avenue
Block 31, Lot 23

The applicant is applying to the Planning Board for a change of use, from retail to personal service. The store would change from a vacant bridal shop to a beauty salon. This property is located in the Central Business District. No change to the footprint.
No Comments

- b. Yechiel Michael Horowitz
46 North Eighth Avenue
Block 137, Lots 3,4,5,&6

The applicant is seeking variances from the Zoning Board to use part of the first floor of an existing single family home in the RA zone, for religious services. No changes to the footprint.
No Comments

6. Old Business Items

- a) Environmental Education Center –. DPW to turn water on for drinking fountain. A key is still needed for the double doors. Signage to identify the building is still a top priority. Signs are to be professionally made and will be coordinated by Mayor's Office. Paint is flaking off the solar structure. Who is responsible for repainting? Soil remediation is still required for portions of the property not yet capped. Karen Waldron to provide more information.

- b) Recreational Trail Grant Meadows – No action yet by Karen Waldron regarding the memo from Allan Williams and Steve Barnes (dated April 8) regarding needed equipment, hand tools, and signs for the Meadows Loop Trail Project Grant. The total estimated cost for these items is \$3,159.09. DPW suggestions and comments were incorporated into the list. Karen Waldron will speak to NJDEP about potential modifications and will request additional time to complete the project.
- c) Highland Park Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Volunteers continue to remove invasives. Fish and Wildlife will supply us with 100 trees and shrubs to plant along the side of the bikeway. A new web site is up and running and is linked to the Environmental Commission web site. More than 30 backyards have already been certified. Joan Ehrenfeld will get a Rutgers graduate student to monitor The Meadows over the summer. Stormwater runoff is creating a gully along the bike path. We may be able to create a small detention basin near the foot of the path.
- d) Waterway restoration due to erosion at Mill Brook between Grant Avenue and Harrison Avenue. Chris Obropta of Rutgers is looking at alternative funding sources to complete the project.

7. New Business Items

- a) Cutting of invasives around public buildings. This has been a problem, so Steve will write an article with photos for the Boro's newsletter.
8. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 8 PM.