

## Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of June 18, 2008

### Minutes

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

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Gabor Grunstein, Arnold Henderson

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:25 PM., in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the May 21, 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: Letter from James Frace Consulting. S.A.M. Enterprises has requested a Letter of Interpretation from NJDEP for Block 123, Lot 25. This is the current location of Park Decorating Center, near the Highland Park/Edison border and is near Mill Brook. It is unknown at this time, what is planned for the property.
5. Site Plans:

- a. 4R KIDZ II, LLC  
250 South Adelaide Avenue  
Block 75, Lots 2,3,20,21, and 24a

The applicant is applying to the Planning Board to retain and relocate an existing single family home and to construct four new single family homes. The property is a highly irregular shape and fronts on South Adelaide and a small portion of Elbert Court. A private driveway is proposed that would be shared by three of the homes. The proposed project would result in disturbance of 4,045 square feet of areas designated by the Highland Park Land Development Ordinance as steep slopes.

Comments:

The application does not give the amount of impervious surface in the before and after "states".

In the storm water management plan there is no indication on the proposed structure plans that the downspouts will enter retention basins or dry wells.

There is no information on the composition of the driveway. The commission recommends a pervious surface for the driveway and no curbs along the driveway.

The application does not appear to conform to the "steep slopes" section of the Chapter XVII Land Development of the borough's ordinances. It would be better to maintain the current slope, not need a re-vegetation plan and erosion plan, not need a retaining structure to hold the altered steep slope together.

The applicant should follow the current tree ordinance.

The landscape plan of the applicants should be forwarded to the Shade Tree Advisory Committee for their comment.

It should be noted that Michael Rosenberg, Chairman of the Environmental Commission, recused himself from reviewing the application as he lives within 200 feet of the property

and it could be perceived as a conflict of interest. The comments reflect the views of the remaining members of the Environmental Commission present at the meeting.

#### 6. Old Business Items

- a) Environmental Education Center – Weeding of the green roof is required. Safety is a concern for whoever goes up on the roof to do the work. DPW should do the weeding after being trained by the Shade Tree Committee to recognize which plants are the weeds.
- b) Recreational Trail Grant Meadows – Karen Waldron has given the go-ahead to purchase the needed equipment and hand tools for the Meadows Loop Trail Project Grant. The tools will be stored in the Environmental Education Center. A one year extension for the grant was requested from NJDEP. The NJDEP agreed to a four month extension (end of 2008). Plantings should take place by the end of October so that we can complete all activities prior to the end-of-year deadline.
- c) Highland Park Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Nothing new to report this month. Number of backyard habitats still increasing.
- 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) Rainbow Cleaners – Reports of groundwater contamination in the vicinity of Rainbow Cleaners (705 Raritan Avenue). Some residents have been asked for permission to install groundwater monitoring wells on their property. Mike Rosenberg will contact NJDEP for additional information.
  - b) Doctoral Thesis of Amy Foss was completed. Allan will distribute it electronically.
  - c) Steve Barnes to lead a tour of the Meadows trail for a Summer Teen Program on July 15.
8. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at 8 PM.