

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of February 18, 2009
Minutes

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

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld,

Guest: Joshua Fine

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. The schedule of meeting dates for 2009 was confirmed. Special note that the April meeting will be on April 21.
4. There was no correspondence.
5. Site Plans reviewed:

- a. All Saints Episcopal Church
101 South Third Avenue
Block 32, Lot 1

This is a revision of the application previously reviewed at the November 2008 meeting. The applicant proposes to convert the interior of an unused church, and turn it into 8 apartments for disabled and special needs veterans. The revised proposal removed the on-site parking and paved driveways. Instead 4 parking spots will be provided by a bump-in on the Magnolia Street side of the building. By making these changes, impervious coverage is greatly reduced from the original application. Other features of the application including solar panels are favorable.

Comments: Much better than original application. No additional comments.

6. Reviewed the draft list of 2009 goals for the Environmental Commission. The goals were reviewed and assignments for follow-up were made. Mike will consolidate the list more for the March meeting.
7. Old Business
 - a. Environmental Education Center – No news regarding the proposed capping of contaminated soil or for the request to NJDEP for permit modification for previously approved upland waterfront development. We can still do plantings in certain locations this summer while waiting for a decision from the NJDEP.

- b. Meadows Project – The final report was to be submitted to the State by the end of January. Presumably this was done, but we have not received a copy of the report. \$3,743 was spent for tools and lumber. It is still unknown if the remaining amount of the \$10,000 grant was spent. Steve Barnes distributed a Post Project Management Plan for the Meadows Trail. The plan includes weekly, monthly and annual activities to ensure that the trail is maintained in a safe and useable condition. Also included is a weekly monitoring checklist to document trail conditions. Jon Erickson will show the plan to the Department of Public Works to see what they would be willing to do. Signs including a message board, 3 large signs and 10 small signs still need to be installed in the spring.
- c. Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Nothing new to report. Will start up again in the spring.

8. New Business

- a. The Commission is still looking for new members. Joshua Fine expressed interest in joining the Commission. Jon Erickson will follow-up.
- b. A Green Fair will be held on Earth Day, April 22, from 6-9 PM at Highland Park High School. This event is being planned by Sustainable Highland Park. The Environmental Commission is a co-sponsor and is asked to set up a display at the fair. Mike Rosenberg is on the planning committee for this event. More information and details will be forthcoming.
- c. The Borough submitted an application for a Smart Growth Planning Grant.
- d. The 2009 Great backyard bird count was held last weekend. Highland Park was #1 in the State of New Jersey for number of checklists submitted with 60, and #7 in the state for number of species with 52 different species.

9. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday March 18, 2009 at 8:00 PM.