

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of March 18, 2009
Minutes

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

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Gabor Grunstein

Guest: Joshua Fine

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the February 18, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. There was no correspondence.
4. Site Plans reviewed:
 - a. HP North LLC
30 North 8th Avenue
Block 137, Lots 15,16,17

This application to the Planning Board is a minor subdivision of a residential property that is currently 3 lots. Lot 15 contains an existing single family home. Lots 16 and 17 would be sold for construction of another single family home. There will be an overall increase in impervious coverage impervious due to construction of the second home.

Comments: The applicant should reduce impervious coverage of the existing house by 2.3% to meet the maximum requirement of 40%. If any trees are to be removed, they should be replaced by an equal number of new trees.

6. Reviewed the list of 2009 goals for the Environmental Commission. Mike will consolidate the list further.
7. Old Business
 - a. Environmental Education Center – No news from NJDEP regarding the proposed capping of contaminated soil. We can still do plantings in certain locations this summer while waiting for a decision from the NJDEP. Mike received a request from the Sierra Club to use the EEC for a meeting. Allan will get a copy of the procedures for use of the Senior/Youth Center and we can edit it for use at the EEC. If a meeting is held by a non-profit group and the meeting is cosponsored with either the Environmental Commission or STAC, it should be OK to use.

- b. The first annual Sustainable Highland Park Earth Day Extravaganza will be held on Earth Day, April 22, from 6-9 PM at Highland Park High School. The Environmental Commission is a co-sponsor and will set up a display at the event. We will focus our exhibit on 3 areas; The Meadows Trail, Backyard Habitat Program, and The Environmental Education Center. Mike Rosenberg is on the planning committee for this event. We will also prepare a brochure for distribution summarizing the activities of the Environmental Commission.
- c. Meadows Project – We need to obtain a copy of the final report that was submitted to the State. \$3,743 was spent for tools and lumber. The next step is to implement Steve’s 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 by DPW.
- d. Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Irving School is planning a 1,800 square foot wildlife habitat. Eleanor Jones, a landscape designer will come up with a design for the site.
- e. The Commission is still looking for new members. Joshua Fine expressed interest in joining the Commission and has attended meetings. Jon Erickson will follow-up with the mayor.

8. New Business

- a. N.J. Water Watch would like to conduct a cleanup in Highland Park in the near future. Allan will work with them to select a date and location.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 21, 2009 at 8:00 PM. The April meeting is on an unusual date due to Passover the previous Wednesday and the Earth Day event, the following Wednesday.