

**Highland Park Environmental Commission**  
Meeting of April 21, 2009  
Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Michael Rosenberg, Allan Williams

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Gabor Grunstein, Arnold Henderson

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. There was no correspondence.
4. Site Plans reviewed:

- a. L&L Highland Park Inc.  
160 Woodbridge Avenue  
Block 71, Lot 5

This application to the Zoning Board is an expansion of non-conforming use for an existing structure. There are no exterior changes or changes to the building footprint.  
No Comments

5. Old Business

- a. The first annual Sustainable Highland Park Earth Day Extravaganza will be held tomorrow 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 2 areas; the Meadows Trail, and the Backyard Habitat Program. The new brochure (prepared by Jonathan Abrahams) summarizing the activities of the Environmental Commission is complete. Mike will make copies and we will distribute at the event.
- b. Report on Saturday's cleanup at the Meadows – The cleanup was an overwhelming success. Approximately 125 people attended including, NJ Water Watch, 2 Rutgers fraternities, Reform Church Nature Club, and Highland Park residents. Others that attended include Middlesex County Freeholder James Polos and Acting Mayor, Elsie Foster-Dublin. Trash was collected, the trail was smoothed and invasive species were chopped out.
- c. Meadows Project – Allan Williams has copy of the final report that was submitted to the NJDEP. He will scan the document and send it out to Commission members. 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. The large message board was installed. The balance of the signage (3 large and 10 small signs) will be installed by DPW during the next month.

- d. Environmental Education Center – The Department of Community Services is writing a new policy for use of Borough owned buildings by outside groups. The new policy will include the Environmental Education Center. Still 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.
  - e. Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Irving School is planning a 1,800 square foot wildlife habitat. Soil tests have been done. Sod has been removed, soil is being conditioned, and getting ready to plant.
6. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday May 20, 2009 at 8:00 PM.