

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of May 20, 2009
Minutes

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

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Gabor Grunstein

Guest: Kristen Ross

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:12 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the April 21, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Membership – Joshua Fine was welcomed as a new member of the Environmental Commission. The Commission received with great regret the resignation of Arnold Henderson who will be relocating to California in July. Arnold is thanked for his hard work and many years of devoted service to the Commission.

4. Correspondence: Letter from PSE&G regarding statewide general wetlands permit.

5. Site Plans reviewed:

- a. Scott Cohn
225 Valentine Street
Block 29, Lot 19

This application to the Zoning Board is to legalize a pre-existing deck on a single family home. 4 variances requested as the property is only 37.5 feet wide.
No Comments

6. Old Business

- a. The first annual Sustainable Highland Park Earth Day Extravaganza was held on Earth Day, at Highland Park High School. The Environmental Commission was a co-sponsor and had a display at the event. The new brochure summarizing the activities of the Environmental Commission was distributed at the event. The extravaganza featured various groups and organizations that exhibited actions, plans, green shopping opportunities, actions by residents and businesses that contribute to a clean and green Highland Park. The event was very well attended and was deemed to be a great success. Thanks to all the organizers and participants.
- b. 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. The Commission should approve

use of the center by outside groups, could be via email or other form of communication. Can we establish a trust fund for the EEC? Jon will inquire.

- c. Meadows Project – We are now conducting weekly trail inspections as part of the Post Project Management Plan. Everyone please follow the schedule and submit your reports to Steve to ensure that the trail is maintained in a safe and useable condition. The large message board was installed. The balance of the signage (3 large and 10 small signs) will soon also be installed. \$2,500 remaining from the grant to spend on forestry supplies and herbaceous plants. Also looking at 600 feet of 7 foot high deer fencing.
 - d. Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Mary Denver agreed to take over project team. Irving School wildlife habitat making progress. Plants were delivered on Saturday. Eleanor Jameson a landscape designer will take a look at The Meadows and make suggestions for plantings.
7. New Business
- a. Sustainable Raritan River Summit –was held May 15, at Rutgers Bloustein School
 - b. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee would like us to share with them, reviewed plans that impact trees.
8. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday June 17, 2009 at 8:00 PM.