

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of December 16, 2009
Minutes

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

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Joshua Fine, Gabor Grunstein, Karen Swaine

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Correspondence
 - a. Memo from Borough Clerk to HP Police Department with a list of Environmental Commission and Shade Tree Advisory Committee members who are authorized to sign out the key to the Environmental Education center
 - b. Letter from ANJEC announcing 2010 Smart Growth Planning grants for NJ municipalities
4. Site plan review

No new site plans to review.
5. Old Business
 - a. A resolution (no. 12-09-353) to adopt a Sustainable Land Use Pledge was approved unanimously by the Borough Council on December 1.
 - b. Master Plan Review Zoning of Highland Park Meadows – The HP Planning Board is meeting tomorrow night December 17, to vote on the Master Plan Reexamination Report.
 - c. Environmental Education Center – No news since last meeting. Still waiting to hear about the pre-application submitted by the Borough to qualify for a \$300,000 grant from EPA that would include solar panels for the EEC. The Borough also signed a \$40,000 contract with CME for additional investigative work regarding the soil contamination issue. We don't know what triggered the contract with CME and what is CME's scope of work. Mike Rosenberg to contact Karen Waldron.
 - d. Meadows Project – Work on the trail has slowed down due to winter weather. We need to be careful on the new boardwalk bridge because the surface may freeze and become slippery after rain or snow melt. More wood chips were spread along the trail. In the spring, plan to cut down some invasive trees. There are a couple of Eagle Scout projects that are being planned for the Meadows. They include construction of

- benches along the trail, more boardwalks, additional signage, birdhouses and bat houses. Steve Barnes to coordinate with I. Herniter and J. Winter.
- e. Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Nothing new to report. Mary Denver has obtained wildlife habitat certification for the Irving School site and is coordinating the program.
 - f. Reviewed 2009 goals, some complete, some partially complete. Need to revise list for 2010.
6. New Business
- a. Organize a Green Group Summit – Include EC, STAC, Sustainable Highland Park, School groups, etc. Meeting to interface and discuss activities, goals and ways to help each other.
 - b. Distributed meeting schedule for 2010.
 - c. Invasive plants – Together with STAC conduct education, fact sheets, etc. Consider putting together a resolution banning the outdoor planting of invasive plants.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 20, 2010 at 8:00 PM.