

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of January 20, 2010
Minutes

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

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Gabor Grunstein

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Kristen Ross is moving out of Highland Park and submitted her resignation.
4. Allan Williams volunteered to be the Environmental Commission representative to Sustainable Highland Park
5. Correspondence
 - a. Received a brochure from ANJEC with details of the 2010 Smart Growth Planning Grants for NJ municipalities – Discussed possible projects we could apply for. We agreed to apply for an update of the Borough’s Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), originally written in 1992. We will need to get approval from Borough Council to apply.
6. Site plan review
No new site plans to review.
7. Old Business
 - a. Master Plan Review – The Highland Park Planning Board will meeting tomorrow night January 21, to vote on the Master Plan Reexamination Report. This vote was postponed from the December meeting to get additional public input.
 - b. Environmental Education Center – Discussion of \$40,000 CME contract and what triggered it. Mike Rosenberg contacted Karen Waldron for more information. It appears that NJDEP approved the work plan back in September. We don’t have a copy of the approval or what it contains. ICON Engineering corresponded with NJDEP on behalf of the Borough. Karen Waldron to get additional information.
 - c. Meadows Project – Work on the trail has slowed down due to winter weather. Deer have been chewing on some of the seedlings that were planted. Starting work plan for 2010. There are a couple of Eagle Scout projects that are being planned for the Meadows. They include construction of benches along the trail and 3 more boardwalks, additional signage, birdhouses and bat houses. Steve Barnes to

coordinate with I. Herniter and J. Winter. Jon Winter has already submitted a proposal for the benches.

- d. Sustainable Community Certification – In March, Highland Park will apply for certification as a Sustainable Community. A new water conservation ordinance was adopted by Borough Council on December 15. This ordinance together with the Sustainable Land Use Pledge will give us additional points to get us close to our goal.

8 New Business

- a. Invasive plants – We will work together with STAC to conduct education, distribute fact sheets, etc. Karen Swaine will contact ANJEC to find out what other towns are already doing regarding banning the outdoor planting of invasive plants.
9. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday February 17, 2010 at 8:00 PM.