

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of February 17, 2010
Minutes

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

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:20 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Correspondence
No correspondence
4. Site plan review
Francis Parker Memorial Home
443 River Road
Block 189 Lot 3
The applicant is applying to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for amended site plan approval for the addition of 29 parking spaces. The facility already has 107 parking spaces which were approved in 2004 as part of the original site plan approval.
Comments: What is the justification for the additional parking spaces? Parking spaces should not cut into steep slopes. Any trees removed must be replaced. The applicant must comply with both steep slopes and tree protection ordinances. Permeable paving material should be used.
5. Old Business
 - a. ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant – The Environmental Commission will apply for a grant to update the Borough's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) which was originally prepared in 1992 and has become outdated. The application is due by March 31. We should solicit proposals from at least 3 environmental consultants. Experience preparing NRIs for other towns will be important and we should request samples to evaluate. Mike, Allan and Steve will meet next week to begin working on the application.
 - b. Sustainable Highland Park – Allan attended the year's first meeting in January. The Environmental Commission will co-sponsor the Earth day event. An overall theme for the event is still being developed, but it will include something to do with edible gardens. A green summit for the various environmental groups in town will be postponed until after Earth Day.

- c. Master Plan Review – The Highland Park Planning Board approved the Master Plan Reexamination Report at its last meeting. The Board said that certain lots would be included as recreation/conservation.
 - d. Environmental Education Center – CME is developing estimates for final remediation of the soil. The Environmental Commission still has not received a copy of the NJDEP approved work plan and we do not know what it contains. ICON Engineering corresponded with NJDEP on behalf of the Borough. Karen Waldron to get additional information.
 - e. Meadows Project – 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 signed a letter for Jon Winter to begin getting material to construct benches. Eleanor James a local landscape designer will help to design nice entrances to the trail.
6. New Business
- a. A Rutgers grad student Devin Reitsmeyer is looking to manage an environmental project in Highland Park. We will contact him.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday March 17, at 8:00 PM.