

Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of April 21, 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 March meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Correspondence
 - No correspondence
 - It was announced that Kathleen Kovach is now Acting Borough Administrator, CFO, and Treasurer, replacing Karen Waldron.
4. Site plan review
 - No site plans
5. Old Business
 - a. ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant –The Environmental Commission submitted an application to ANJEC, for a grant to update the Borough’s Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). ANJEC will reply to applicants by May 28, as to success of grant process.
 - b. Earth Day – The Environmental Commission is co-sponsoring the Earth Day Extravaganza, April 22, tomorrow night at Highland Park High School. The overall theme for the event is Sustainable Food and Sustainable Community. There will also be a community health fair in the high school gym at the same time. Set up time is between 4-6 PM. Allan Williams will print up some more brochures for the commission. STAC will also have a table and give out seedlings.
 - c. Environmental Education Center – CME has developed cost estimates for final remediation of the soil. The Environmental Commission has still not received a copy of the NJDEP approved work plan and we do not know the contents. Scott Luthman to obtain cost information for the additional required work. Still need to look at signage requirements.
 - d. Meadows Project – Work for 2010 has started. About 15-20 trees were lost due to winter storms. Downed trees that are blocking the trail are being removed. Plants put in last year had about an 80% survival rate over the winter. Trying to reroute parts of the trail out of the flood hazard area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative was here 2 weeks ago to conduct spraying to remove mugwort and Japanese knotweed. Plan to replace invasives with a meadow of native grasses. Jon

Winter still waiting to hear from Boy Scout Council to get his project of wooden benches approved.

6. New Business

- a. Next Thursday the Native Plant Society will meet at the Environmental Education Center
- b. May 23 is the Highland Park Street Fair. STAC will have a table. Most Environmental Commission members will be away.
- c. EPA grant for 3 towns; Cherry Hill, Montclair and Highland Park. Highland Park may get a part time person to collect energy data and set up energy audits. Cherry Hill is the lead agency.
- d. May 4 - Rain Barrel making event at the EEC.
- e. May 16 - Congregation Ahavas Achim will have a cleanup day at the Native Plant Reserve.
- f. The old Illuminating Experiences building on Cleveland Avenue is being demolished. Some residents are concerned about soil contamination issues.
- g. Who Is My Neighbor is having an Environmental Summer Camp. They would like to have speakers from both the Environmental Commission and STAC.

7. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday May 26, at 8:00 PM.