

## Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of May 26, 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 8:35 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Correspondence  
No correspondence

4. Site plan review  
Equipcare LLC  
438-440 Raritan Avenue  
Block 36, Lot 7

The applicant proposes to convert part of the first floor to a compounding pharmacy. Retain Brunswick Supply Company in front and beauty salon on second floor. No changes to building footprint. Interior renovations and façade improvements only.

No comments.

5. Old Business
  - a. ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant –The Environmental Commission application to ANJEC, for a grant to update the Borough’s Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) has been approved. ANJEC will send us a draft contract within three weeks. Some terms of the contract may be negotiated. The project will require going through the competitive bidding process.
  - b. Earth Day – The Earth Day Extravaganza at the high school was a highly successful event. Thanks to all who contributed and made it possible.
  - c. Environmental Education Center – A rain barrel building event was held at the EEC on May 4. The NJ Native Plant Society had a meeting at The EEC. Use of the building is increasing as more people find out about it. Wendy Rosen’s herb garden spiral from the Earth Day event is now housed temporarily at the EEC. Allan met with Scott Luthman regarding the site remediation project. All money is now for Phase 1 of the project. A drawing of the already remediated soil area was reviewed.

Repairs of the old pump house were estimated at between 4 and 5K. Need to obtain more repair details from Scott. Allan presented pictures of some sign types that the county may be willing to provide.

- d. Meadows Project – In May, some test pits were dug in the middle plateau in error by a contractor to determine types of materials that may be buried in the upper plateau. Some damage was done to vegetation and the trail edge in the process of digging. The damage needs to be corrected by the contractor and the area restored. The trail improvement work is continuing. Additional wood chips have been spread and the trail is expanding. The US Fish and Wildlife Service donated 16 new trees to be planted at The Meadows. Locations still to be determined.

#### 6. New Business

- a. On May 16, the Congregation Ahavas Achim Environmental Committee had a cleanup day at the Native Plant Reserve.
  - b. The sewer replacement project at Valley Place ravine has been postponed.
  - c. The old Illuminating Experiences building on Cleveland Avenue is being demolished. Some neighborhood residents were concerned about possible asbestos in the dust. According to Scott Luthman, all asbestos was removed from the structure prior to the demolition.
  - d. Who Is My Neighbor is having an environmental themed summer camp. Camp Cool Environment will have EC members Allan Williams and Steve Barnes as guest speakers and leaders of bird walks and stream walks.
7. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday June 16, at 8:00 PM.