

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of June 16, 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 8:15 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the May meeting were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.
3. Correspondence
No correspondence
4. Site plan review
No site plans.
5. Old Business
 - a. ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant –The Environmental Commission application for a grant to update the Borough’s Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) was approved. There were 39 total applicants and 18 grants were awarded by ANJEC. Details in the draft contract have been worked out and there will be a resolution at the July 6, Borough Council meeting authorizing the mayor to sign the contract with ANJEC and issue the RFP. The project will require going through the competitive bidding process. The Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment have been informed about the grant. A tree inventory will be included in the ERI as requested by STAC.
 - b. Environmental Education Center – Sustainable Highland Park will have a meeting here next Wednesday and another rain barrel building event will be held at the EEC later this summer. Use of the building is increasing as more people become aware of its availability. Allan will speak with Scott Luthman regarding some remaining funds and we will develop a wish list of items for the EEC. Lack of signage is still a major issue and solar panels are still needed.
 - c. Meadows Project –The trail improvement work is continuing. An additional 5 loads of wood chips have been spread and the trail is expanding. The team removed invasive plants and pulled some vines from trees. Jon Winter’s Eagle Scout project to build 5 wooden benches for the trail is moving forward and construction should begin very soon. Locations of the benches to be finalized.

6. New Business

- a. Middlesex County is applying to HUD for a grant for sustainability planning. Highland Park may participate.
- b. Many trees are being cut down at the former Cenacle property for the Overlook at Highland Park project.
- c. There was a meeting last week about the EPA showcase climate change grant to the City of Cherry Hill. This would allow for the hiring of a half-time person who would collect data about electricity and water use in the Borough and would also publicize energy reduction strategies to businesses and residents in the borough.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday July 21, at 8:00 PM.