

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of July 21, 2010
Minutes

Present: Steve Barnes, Laurel Kornfeld, Michael Rosenberg, Karen Swaine, Councilman
Jon Erickson

Absent: Jonathan Abrahams, Joan Ehrenfeld, Joshua Fine, Gabor Grunstein Allan Williams

Guests: Judy Shaw – Edward Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Jamie Balancia – Resident and member of NJ Food and Water Watch
Karina Wilkinson – Resident and member of NJ Food and Water Watch

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Membership Changes – The Environmental Commission welcomed back Laurel Kornfeld as a full member. We also note with regret that Joshua Fine resigned from his position on both the Environmental Commission and the Planning Board in order to become more involved with the School Board.
4. Correspondence
Notification that the Middlesex Water Company Treatment Plant has applied to NJDEP for a flood hazard area permit for stream clearing in response to flooding.
5. Site plan review
No site plans.
6. Sustainable Raritan River Initiative
Judy Shaw teaches at the Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. She provided information about the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative and Action Plan. One of her classes is a studio course that trains planners and will focus on the Raritan River and a habitat management plan. They are applying for a \$50K grant that would include a restoration plan for the Highland Park portion of the river. The project may include interpretive signage for riverfront properties including the Native Plant Reserve and Environmental Education Center.
7. Old Business
 - a. ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant to update the Borough's Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) - . Mayor Nolan signed the contract and forwarded it to ANJEC. The RFP for an ERI contractor has been approved by the Borough Clerk and Borough Attorney and has been advertised. The closing date for submitting proposals is July 28. Selection of the contractor should be completed in early August.

The Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment have been informed about the grant.

- b. Meadows Project –The trail improvement work is continuing. An additional stretch of the improved trail has had several more loads of wood chips spread. The entire loop trail has been “weed wacked” to improve accessibility. Jon Winter’s Eagle Scout project to build 5 wooden benches for the trail is 95% complete. The benches are all installed and concreted. Some minor cosmetic work is still pending. Locations of the benches to be added to trail map.
 - c. EPA Showcase Climate Change Grant – Advertising for a half-time (20 hours per week) 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.
8. New Business
- a. The Commission voted to pass a resolution opposing construction of an offshore liquefied natural gas port facility in the NJ/NY clean ocean zone.
9. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday September 15, at 8:00 PM.