

**Highland Park Environmental Commission**  
Meeting of December 15, 2010  
Minutes

Present: Steve Barnes, Allan Williams

Absent: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Laurel Kornfeld, Karen Swaine,  
Councilman Jon Erickson

Guests: Matt Kaplan, EPA Grant; Aaron Gartenberg, HP High School student

1. The Meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM
2. As there was not a quorum of EC members, no decisions were made and the only topics discussed were those of the invited guests.
3. Correspondence: None
4. New Business: None
5. Old Business:

- a. Matt Kaplan gave an overview of the EPA Challenge Grant, which is a joint project with Cherry Hill and Montclair. Cherry Hill has the lead on the project. Matt has a part time position of grant coordinator. The overall goal of the project is to increase the borough's energy efficiency, reduce the borough's carbon footprint, and increase the sustainability of the borough.

The project will have different goals for the different sectors of the community: the borough administration, the business community, and residents.

The project will be rolled out to community in the February/March time frame. There will be a number of small events including press releases, school assemblies, PTO meeting, and talks to local groups. The project will partner with Main Street to communicate its message to the business community. There will also be some big events for the community. One of the means used to communicate with the community will be a website: [www.OurPowerHP.org](http://www.OurPowerHP.org) (which has yet to be launched as of 1/19/11).

Currently Matt is mapping out the overall strategy/plans for the project incorporating ideas from Cherry Hill and Montclair.

The program will include energy modeling for the borough, use of CFL bulbs, high efficiency insulation, recommendations on high efficiency appliances, energy audits, etc.

- b. Aaron Gartenberg, a freshman at HP High School, discussed his ideas about increasing the use of bicycles and walking in the community. Aaron initial idea was to have a banner at the High School athletic field. The EC gave him some guidance on approaching the Board of Education.

His goal is increase the use of bicycling as means of transportation in the borough for students and adults. He is envisioning a public outreach campaign to promote their use at events like the Street Fair. He will formalizes some of his ideas and get back to the EC for additional feedback and support. As he is a freshman, he is looking on this a multi-year project.

6. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM. The next meeting of the Highland Park Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, January 19 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.