

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of July 18, 2012
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Laurel Kornfeld
Guest: Drew Brissman

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM.
2. The minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence
 - a) We received a copy of a letter sent by Denise Nickel, Senior Project Manager at MCIA, to the mayor inviting the borough to apply for grant funding to support free educational and fun riverfront activities in the community. The agency wants to work with the staff of the Department of Community Services and the Environmental Commission on such projects. The borough's role would be to provide insurance, handle outreach and security, prepare the area before events and clean up after those events. Grant applications are due by July 30. The Commission agreed to support the Department of Community Services in submitting a grant application.
4. Site Plans
 - a) Continental Global Ventures, Inc.
Route 27 and South Second Avenue
Docket No.: # P 2012-01
Block 13, Lots 7 and 46

This is the third version of the proposal for a 7-11 on the site of the former Sunoco station. The applicant accepted our suggestion to add a rain garden, but is still not willing to do soil sampling under the building. The Commission previously suggested such soil sampling after the building is demolished. The applicant's consultant sent a letter saying all known environmental issues are being adequately addressed. On behalf of the borough, CME has submitted several sets of comments, which included a recommendation that soil sampling of the area under the building be done. CME's latest memo, dated July 17, 2012, says the applicant should comply with the Environmental Commission report of June 13, 2012.
5. Memo Requesting the Environmental Commission receive site plan applications at the same time as other borough professionals: We have not heard anything back yet in response to this request.

6. Old Business

- a) Cenacle Historic House Documentation. No new information. There are also several other requirements of the agreement with which the applicant has to comply.
- b) Y Property. At the July 23, 2012 meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the proposed development for this site will be discussed.
- c) Cleveland Avenue Proposed Developments. The borough is close to an agreement with the developer regarding the Midland Ross site. The proposal for the Illuminating Experiences site is still in court.
- d) Meadows Trail. Allan and Steve mowed at the site. They reported that black-eyed susan and milkweed are growing around the bike path. Eleana James still has not done the estimates for the work on the new trail. We need someone to come in with an excavator and level the new trail we've cut. Improvements are needed at the trail entrance, to stabilize the bank on both sides and add a four-post entrance structure. We also need to have some signs made. Eleana is supposed to email her design for the trail entrance and estimates on renting a "bobcat" to level the trails and do landscaping at the trailheads to Steve. This project is funded through the \$10,000 National Recreational Trails grant we received from the Department of Transportation.
- e) Riparian Map. At their most recent conference meeting, the Borough Council agreed to have CME update the map to improve the ERI and add greater detail to it. CME has to go to the sites with a GPS to do this. The project will cost \$1,000.
- f) Zoning of Lots Adjacent to the Meadows. No new information.

7. New Business

- a) The annual Raritan River Festival will be held on Sunday, September 23. New Brunswick's Environmental Commission asked our Commission to participate. They are looking for us to have a table there. We agreed to attend and set up a table. The festival runs from 12-4 PM.

8. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, September 19 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.