

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of March 6, 2013
Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Laurel Kornfeld, Karen Swaine, Allan Williams, Councilman Padraic Millet

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.
2. The minutes of the February 6, 2013 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence
 - a) We received a copy of a Sewer Service Map of the borough sent by the Middlesex County Planning Board. This was created in conjunction with a DEP required evaluation of all sanitary sewers in the state. Allan will notify Borough Administrator Kathy Kovach that we have no comments on the map.
4. Site Plans
 - a) 133 North 10th Avenue
Docket Z12-19
Block 130, Lot 48

When we first saw this application, it called for a large increase in impervious coverage. We asked the applicant what they will do about stormwater runoff. The family is preparing the house for an aging parent who plans to live there with them, and they are unfamiliar with the application process. They will come back with a revised plan, as advised by the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board specifically noted our question about stormwater runoff, adding that the Commission recommends use of dry wells.

5. Old Business
 - a) 27 Brookdale Court Application. This application will be heard by the Zoning Board at its March 11 meeting. The applicant has submitted a revised plan in which the size of the proposed house has been reduced, and the footprint does not intrude into steep slopes. Instead of two garages, only one is now proposed. The Zoning Board chair had told the applicant they need to come back with a document that responds to the Environmental Commission's concerns. The applicant did not submit an EIS but did include a summary addressing our issues of concern, as requested by the borough engineer. We will inquire whether a Commission member can accompany Scott Luthman on his inspection of the site once the construction is complete, to evaluate the applicant's compliance.
 - b) Pulte Development. We have not yet received an official copy of the plan though Mr. Schectel deemed it complete once they supplied five required items. The Planning Board will hear the application on April 18 and May 2. Allan will forward relevant documents to us as he receives them.
 - c) Proposed 7-11 Application. No vote was held in February. The Planning Board is likely to vote on this at its next meeting on April 4.

- d) Signage for Environmental Education Center. Karen will create a sign with squares similar to the borough sign at Centennial Park.
 - e) JSM, Buck Woods, and Upper Meadows. The borough is in negotiations with JSM and hopes to reach a redevelopment agreement with them to swap Buck Woods with 2.2 acres of the Upper Meadows. If the developer agrees to this, the borough will clean up Buck Woods enough to put a simple trail through the property. Padraic said he can get us a map of the areas that would be affected by a swap.
 - f) Meadows Trail Update. We need to get wood chips onto the trail. This will be done having them brought to a staging area and then taken to the trail with a utility vehicle. PSE&G visited the Meadows and cleared branches away from the power line. Unfortunately, they also cut too much of the trees. Allan recommended we talk with their public relations department and ask them to either take the power lines out of our conservation areas or not cut down so much of each tree.
 - g) Silver Sustainability Certificate. Padraic is meeting with Sustainable Highland Park chair Terri Jover on Friday to determine what the borough will do to attain this next level.
 - h) Earth Day. Sustainable Highland Park and the Environmental Commission will hold an Earth Day event at the Environmental Education Center on Sunday, April 21 from 11 AM to 3 PM. The rain date is Sunday, April 28, same time. Opportunities to do work at the Meadows will be advertised at this event. Steve and Allan will try to attend a meeting of Sustainable Highland Park before April 21.
 - i) Earth Day Service Project. This will also be held on April 21. The site on which work will be done is still to be determined.
 - j) ANJEC Open Space Grant. ANJEC is providing small grants up to \$1,500 for open space projects such as plans, maps, greenways, and trails. The application deadline is Friday, April 19 at 4:30 PM. We have many projects that can be done with this grant money. Steve requested that by our next meeting, we come up with a list of ideas for a grant application. A suggestion was made to seek a grant, in conjunction with the Shade Tree Advisory Committee, to create a map of significant trees in the borough.
6. New Business. None
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on Wednesday, April 3 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.