

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of February 5, 2014
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Steve Barnes, Karen Swaine, Laurel Kornfeld, Allan Williams, Council liaison Padraic Millet

Guests: Honeywell Representatives Maria Kaouris of Honeywell, Jorge Berkowitz of Langan Engineering, Kay LiCausi of Hoboken Strategy Group, John Poserina of AMEC, and Adam Silverstein of Honeywell; Highland Park residents Hadassah Geretz, Lou Pichinson, and Devora Schiff; Rob Holmes of Pulte Homes; and Stacy Kaplan, Highland Park Communications Coordinator.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.
2. Honeywell Property. Several representatives of Honeywell came to discuss the issue of concrete demolition and asbestos remediation at the site. The site is still officially owned by Honeywell but is under contract with Pulte. Dr. Jorge Berkowitz is the independent LSRP and oversees the site remediation. According to the agreement between Honeywell and Pulte, Honeywell will remove concrete, and Pulte will remove the asphalt on the site. More buried concrete was found than originally thought. Recently, when concrete slabs were being ground up, a glue matrix was found between layers of concrete. Work was stopped and samples of the matrix were collected. It was determined that the matrix contained asbestos fibers. No asbestos was found in the crushed concrete. The area containing asbestos is a total of approximately 30,000 square feet. Removal is scheduled to begin February 10, and the material containing asbestos will be taken out in lined containers. Honeywell found 22 areas of concern about the site. Groundwater has been an issue, so monitoring will continue for 34 years. Some wells are being removed for construction, but new ones will be installed in appropriate places. A report on water must be submitted to the DEP every two years. Honeywell will also monitor dust in real time at the site and will take appropriate action if the findings show that necessary. Air sampling locations were discussed and the data will be posted on the Environmental Commission website. An underground storage tank was recently discovered; and that location will be remediated. The site of the Illuminating Experiences building will be remediated in 2015. Steve Barnes requested the Commission be sent results of the air monitoring as well as pre- and post-validation data from the wells regarding the groundwater.
3. Stacy Kaplan, the borough's new Communications Coordinator, introduced herself and presented the borough's new marketing plan, titled "Walk It; Shop It; Live It; Park It." A logo with this phrase has been approved by the Council. The goal of the program is to get people to stop driving through Highland Park and get more people to start driving to the borough. It is related to the new streetscape and sidewalk replacement program. From April through September, there will be a "themed week" each month involving one big event and many smaller events around town. Stacy is the point person for such programs and is seeking volunteers from the boards, commissions, and committees. April's themed week will be "A Week for the World," and the main event for that will be an April 27 Earth Day celebration at the Environmental Education Center. The goal is to have various environment-related events during that week. Steve noted we have a lot of ideas for volunteer projects at the Meadows trail.

4. The minutes of the January 8, 2014 joint meeting with the Shade Tree Advisory Committee were approved.
5. Correspondence:
 - a) We received our annual dues invoice from ANJEC. We agreed to renew our membership at a cost of \$290 and to pay an additional \$60 for the workshop plan so Commission members can attend ANJEC workshops free of charge.
6. Site Plans: None
7. Old Business
 - a) Pump-house. The roofer is scheduled to repair the pump-house roof in late February or early March. Work on the interior will be done after the roof is repaired.
 - b) Environmental Education Center Signage. Padraic reported he sent the mockup for the sign to Councilwoman Gayle Mittler and added there are no code issues involved. We would like to get it installed before Earth Day. We will have the final mockup done before the borough goes to bid on it.
 - c) Conservation Plan for Meadows. Steve gave a talk on the Meadows trail at a recent ANJEC workshop held in Highland Park. We have to complete an application to the National Soil Conservation Services asking them to look at the site and provide advice on how to best manage it for conservation and wildlife. They will give suggestions on long-term management of the trail. We need to make improvements along the trail to make it an important part of the borough's goal of being a destination community. A conservation agreement is awaiting the mayor's signature; we need this to send in the application. Since there is a waiting list for the National Soil Conservation Services to visit sites, we would like to complete the application by the end of February. Steve reported he spends time at the trail and that a lot of people are using it even in the winter.
 - d) Rutgers University's Scholar Program. The Rutgers scholar for the fall 2013 semester has written her final report. We can have another student take over this project and address the implementation stage. The students' work in this program comes at no cost to the borough.
8. New Business: None
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.