

## Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of December 3, 2014

### Minutes

Present: Stephen Barnes, Padraic Millet, Karen Swaine, Allan Williams

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM
2. The minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Applications: None
5. Old Business
  - a. Illuminating Experiences – The Mayor and Borough Council have approved the Litigation Settlement Agreement with American Properties of Highland Park.
  - b. The Pulte I Performance Bond – Because of STAC’s concern on the replacement of dead trees and shrubs, the performance bond has not been released. Borough engineer, Bruce Koch, is investigating the status of tree replacement.
  - c. Mural Project – the mural project, which is approximately 35% complete, is on hold because of the cold weather. Project will continue in the spring.
  - d. Meadow Trails update – There are now 13 volunteers, who are helping the Environmental Commission to restore the Meadows on weekends. They have cut large areas of mugwort and removed significant amounts of climbing vines and dead limbs from trees.

Representatives of the National Conservation Resource Service met with Steve Barnes, Allan Williams, and Craige Ambroche on November 12. Because of budget cuts, they cannot provide a Conservation Plan for the Meadows; they did provide some verbal advice and can recommend professionals, who could put together a conservation plan for the EC. One of their recommendations was to form a 501-(c)(3) conservation group, who would manage the Meadows for the Borough. Such a group would be able to independently apply for grants. An agreement with the Borough to manage the Meadows would be required.

- e. The remaining Environmental Commission budget will be used
  - i. To purchase tools and consumable for the Meadows

- ii. To start updating the EC website with new URL.
- f. Environmental Education Center exterior lights and sensors - Padraic reported that the lights and sensor should be installed by January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
**Post Meeting Note-** *Lights and Sensors have been installed.*
- g. The Planning Board approved the Hahn Charitable Foundation's application for 114 Johnson Street.
- h. The Grossman application for 1602 Central Avenue has been carried to the January 2015 meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

6. New Business

- a. Updating the EC website – postponed until the majority of the EC is present.
- b. Meeting dates for 2015. We will continue to meet on first Wednesday of the month. There are no conflicts with religious or secular holidays.  
**Post Meeting Note** – *First night of Purim is on March 4, we will have a joint meeting with STAC on March 11.*
- c. Borough Council reorganization – As Padraic Millet is leaving the Borough Council, the Environment Commission will have a new liaison, which should be announced at the re-organization meeting on January 6, 2015.
- d. Padraic reported that Clean Community Grants are available

7. Next meeting will be on January 7, 2015

8. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

**Attachment:** 2015 EC Meeting Dates