

**Highland Park Environmental Commission**  
Joint Meeting with Shade Tree Advisory Committee, March 11, 2015  
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Karen Swaine, Allan Williams  
Shade Tree Advisory Committee Members  
Borough Council Liaison Susan Welkovits  
Guest: Jim Walsh

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.
2. The minutes of the February 2015 Environmental Commission meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans: Review of Final Site Plan for the former Y property – The preliminary site plan has already been approved by the Planning Board. There are still questions about an easement for public access to the riverfront. There were plans for the Highland Park logo to be placed on the retaining wall but that proposal was rejected by NJDOT.
5. Old Business
  - a) Buck Woods - The owner of Buck Woods has applied to the Borough to cut down 159 trees on the property. A map was supplied showing proposed test pit locations and trees to be removed. There were many questions about the reasons for this and the timing of the application. STAC will respond to the applicant. There was an old wetlands delineation of the property conducted by NJDEP. The letter of interpretation (LOI) may expire in 2015. We will find the original letter and give it to S. Welkovits.
  - b) April 19 Earth Day Celebration – We will participate
  - c) Grant Application – The Borough Council passed a resolution allowing us to submit a grant application (\$1,500) to ANJEC.
  - d) National Recreational Trails Grant – We will apply for a grant. The application (\$8,000-10,000) will be for ongoing management of the existing Meadows Trail and enhancement of the trailside. 20% in-kind services will be labor supplied by volunteers and DPW staff. The due date for this application is April 30.
6. New Business
  - a) Pulte is requesting a setback variance for a porch that was built incorrectly. 17.3 feet and should be 20 feet. We oppose the granting of the variance.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, April 1, at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.