

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of February 3, 2016
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Dan Larkins, Christina Petagna, Allan Williams, Council liaison Susan Welkovits

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:07 PM.
2. The minutes of the January 6, 2016 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence
 - a) Annual notice from PSE&G – Freshwater wetlands statewide general permit application notice to conduct regulated activities on the PSE&G electrical overhead and underground transmission line rights-of-way.
4. Old Business
 - a) American Properties/Heritage at Highland Park/Cleveland Avenue. The American Properties application review started at the most recent Planning Board meeting on January 14, and will continue on Thursday February 11.
 - b) Park Partners Grants. There are 4 projects being submitted under the environmental category. There will be a public presentation on February 21, followed by a vote.
 - c) Sustainable Jersey Grant. Applications are due on February 7. Decided not to apply this time.
 - d) ANJEC Grant – Dan would like to apply for a grant to purchase binoculars and bird feeders to encourage people to do bird watching. We could seek a grant to fund the placement of bird houses and create promotional bird watching materials. Grants are for up to \$1,500 and applications are due by April 1.
 - e) Web Site Update – Allan did an inventory of the contents of our web site. Some of the older items can be deleted and some items need updating.
 - f) Merriwold Developer’s Agreement – Borough Council approved a developer’s agreement for this project. The value of the trees was assessed at \$175,000 to be paid into the borough tree fund or to be used to plant new trees.
5. New Business
 - a) The proposed meeting between the mayor and NJDEP to discuss local environmental issues has been rescheduled.
 - b) Sustainable Jersey Certification – Highland Park has had silver certification under this program which was good for a 3 year period. The 3 year period expires at the end of this year. There is a meeting scheduled for February 18 to discuss what the borough can do to update or improve our certification status.
 - c) There is a possible redevelopment agreement for the International Market property on Raritan Avenue.
6. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM. The next meeting of the Highland Park Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, March 2 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.