

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of May 3, 2017
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Dan Larkins, Karen Swaine, Allan Williams, Councilman Phil George

Guests: Christopher Satch, Muriel Haber

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.
2. The minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence - None
4. Site Plans: None
5. Old Business
 - a) Graduate students from Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts placed 7 sculptures beginning at Centennial Park, around the Environmental Education center, and along River Road. An opening ceremony was held on April 30, and was attended by the Mayor, several borough council members, and several Middlesex County Freeholders. The exhibit will remain until Labor Day.
 - b) American Properties. Continuing crushing of concrete and site preparation. Air quality data for dust and particulates is still being monitored.
 - c) ANJEC Birding Grant. Dan continues to conduct monthly birding events funded by our most recent grant. The "Birding for Kids" event on April 27, was attended by 15-20 people. The next event will be on May 7, at 9:00 at The Meadows and will be titled "Hawks and Raptors."
 - d) PSE&G Solar Farm – Steve, Allan, and Craige met with PSE&G representatives and marked trees to be removed. Approximately 100 trees will be removed and an equal number will be planted in compliance with the borough's tree ordinance. Site work is projected to begin in August.
 - e) Meadows Update. A cleanup will be held on May 17, with the Lower Raritan River Watershed Partnership. Plans are being made with DPW to use the borough's bobcat on the area around the new entrance site.
 - f) Environmental Commission Website – Chris evaluated two potential hosting sites. Cost will be approximately \$95 per year. Allan, Jonathan and Chris will meet to discuss details.
 - g) A volunteer appreciation event will be held on May 9, at the Senior/Youth Center. Dan Larkins was chosen to be the Environmental Commission's Volunteer of the year.
6. New Business
 - a) Looking at possibly rezoning the Upper Meadows as a Municipal micro-grid grid for sustainability.
 - b) National Trails Day will be on June 3. We will need volunteers to help.

- c) DPW would like to create a pervious walkway at the Environmental Education Center to make it easier to clear snow in the winter.
 - d) We would like to either ban plastic bags or find a way to minimize their use. Future project.
 - e) There will be an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on May 14 at 11:00 AM, for the two scouts that helped us with bird house and bat house projects.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, June 7 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.