

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of June 7, 2017
Minutes

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.
2. The minutes of the May 3, 2017 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence - None
4. Site Plans: None
5. Old Business
 - a) Walkway at the Environmental Education Center - DPW would like to create a pervious walkway at the Environmental Education Center to make it easier for them to clear snow in the winter. It will probably be made of permeable paving blocks. We are in favor of this.
 - b) ANJEC Birding Grant. Dan continues to conduct monthly birding events funded by our ANJEC grant. The most recent event was on May 7, at The Meadows and was titled "Hawks and Raptors. A red-tail hawk was seen by the participants. The next event is scheduled for June 18 at the EEC at 9:00 AM and is titled "Bird Brains".
 - c) A volunteer appreciation event was held on May 9, at the Senior/Youth Center. Dan Larkins was honored as the Environmental Commission's Volunteer of the year
 - d) PSE&G Solar Farm – A meeting was recently held by borough representatives and NJDEP. The topic discussed was old contamination found in the groundwater monitoring wells near this property. Site work is still projected to begin in August
 - e) Meadows Update. A cleanup was held on May 17, and approximately 40 high school students removed trash and tires. Borough DPW workers graded the area around the new trail entrance site and did a great job. We thank them for their assistance. Next Monday supplies including tools and lumber will arrive for this year's new work. A water tank for the gator has already been delivered. 4 patches of milkweed are coming up along the bike path. Black plastic is being put down to kill off mugwort and other invasive species.
 - f) American Properties. Project has slowed down.
 - g) The Borough is moving forward on rezoning the Upper Meadows as a Municipal micro-grid for sustainability. The zone would be called a Sustainable Resource Zone.
 - h) Environmental Commission Website – Allan, Jonathan and Chris met to discuss details of the new website. They discussed a pricing plan that would be \$250 for three years. Target is August for the new website and the address will be hpenvcomm.org.
6. New Business

- a) The commission passed the following resolution: The Highland Park Environmental Commission urges the Mayor and Borough Council to support the Paris Climate Accord and to lobby the Federal and New Jersey State government to support the goals of the Paris Climate Accord.
 - b) There has been more vandalism at the EEC beehives. The wooden fence was knocked down by unknown vandals and the police department is investigating. Additional motion activated security lighting is recommended.
 - c) A plastic bag reduction campaign is being initiated and more information will be forthcoming.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, July 5, at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.