

**Highland Park Environmental Commission**  
Meeting of December 6, 2017  
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Karen Swaine, Allan Williams,  
Council liaison Philip George

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.
2. The minutes of the November 1, 2017 meeting were approved with minor corrections.
3. Correspondence: Notice from PSE&G that they are applying to NJDEP for a general permit to maintain and repair existing and new electric distribution facilities within electric distribution and public rights-of-way. This maintenance also may include selective herbicide application within riparian zones.
4. New Site Plan for Review: White Rose – 154 Woodbridge Avenue – Proposed small one story addition to be used for additional customer seating. – No comments
5. Old Business
  - a) PSE&G Solar Farm. NJDEP is working with the county to redo the concrete removal plan. The current plan is for the borough to remove 48 large pieces of concrete using borrowed county equipment. The former plan was 24 pieces. There are still some issues to be worked out including access to the property and vehicle equipment issues.
  - b) American Properties/Heritage at Highland Park. – Some lead contamination was found in soil samples from below the concrete slab. Work has stopped for now until the lead issue can be studied further.
  - c) Meadows Trail Update. Getting ready to shut down activities for the winter. 2 of our wooden benches have been vandalized with spray paint. Some seeding with native wildflowers and grasses was done. 4 trees were planted. We still have additional pots of grasses and ferns near DPW. The trail volunteers cleared a quarter acre to be used for new planting in the spring.
  - d) Environmental Commission Web Site. Chris Satch has moved back to New York City and has resigned from the Environmental Commission. The remaining unspent money for the website was turned over to Joanathan from Chris. The web site is still under development. Any comments on it should now be sent to Jonathan.
  - e) Phase 1 Study for Redevelopment. – The Borough has secured a grant for some Phase 1 testing along Raritan Avenue. Allan reported that some studies have begun and that some reports are already in. The Environmental Commission would like to see the reports for the north side of Raritan Avenue between First and Second Avenues. Potential redevelopers are in the acquisition phase. In an ordinance adopted last year, the borough declared the entire town to be in need of rehabilitation.
6. New Business
  - a) The heating system for the Environmental Education Center seems to be working OK. Two internal doors need to be left open in order to facilitate a uniform heat flow.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.