

Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of April 11, 2018

Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Michael Rosenberg, Allan Williams, Council liaison Philip George
Guests: Boy Scout Eric Yang and his father

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.
2. The minutes of the February 7, 2018, meeting were approved with minor corrections. There was no meeting held in March due to a major snowstorm.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans: ANT Realty LLC
139 Raritan Ave.
Block 173, Lots 36 & 37
P2018-01
Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan
Applicant proposes to construct a building addition to the former International Market and construct space for 2 retail stores or offices with 5 rental apartments above.
No comments.
5. Old Business
 - a) PSE&G Solar Farm. A meeting between borough representatives, PSE&G and NJDEP is scheduled for later this week.
 - b) Environmental Commission Website. A meeting was held with Nicole Wines. Allan Williams to provide her with feedback.
 - c) Bee Hive Fences. The new fence around the bee hives is now complete. A lock is still needed to secure the entrance gate.
 - d) Buck Woods – Completed a settlement plan that will finally resolve the lawsuits. Up to 75 units could be constructed on the property. A fairness hearing will be held and the plan can still be challenged. Soil testing is still being conducted.
 - e) Meadows cleanup will be held on April 14. Phil George met with the trail volunteers.
 - f) Proposed Eagle Scout Project. Eric Yang is a Boy Scout who is interested in doing a project with the Environmental Commission for his Eagle Scout project. His current plan is to build several benches at various locations to be determined. Possible locations include the EEC site, Valley Place Ravine, The Meadows, and Felton Park. Other locations may also still be considered.
6. New Business
 - a) The emerald ash borer beetle has infected ash trees in Middlesex County. 72 ash trees located on Borough owned property will require removal. Wood chips could be used for spreading on the Meadows trail.
 - b) Earth Day Celebration – The Annual Earth Day Festival will be held at the EEC and the NPR on April 22, from 11-3.
 - c) Work is currently being done by Middlesex County in Johnson Park. The Mill Brook Spillway is crumbling above the sewer line and must be repaired. Also, a culvert on Johnson Road for Buell Brook is being replaced. The ongoing construction is anticipated to last until June, weather permitting. The park entrance at River Rd and Cedar Lane will be closed during construction. Detour signs have been posted on River Rd that direct you to enter the park by the baseball field.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, May 2, at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center.