

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of May 2, 2018
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Laurel Kornfeld, Allan Williams

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:22 PM.
2. The minutes of the April 11, 2018 meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans
 - a) Solop Partnership, LLC (Rita and James Polos)
Skyview Terrace, Block 75, Lot 15.02
This is an application for a subdivision of the lot and construction of two single-family homes, submitted for preliminary and final site plan approval. No variances are requested. The property has several easements for sewer and water lines. The proposed homes appear to be above the flood plain but we recommend a wetlands delineation for the property. The application does not contain any information about compliance with the borough's tree ordinance or steep slope ordinance. We noted that a sewer vent on the property may have to be moved. The application shows an extension of the street (Skyview Terrace) with a proposed width of only 25 feet instead of the usual 50 feet. We recommend a full size street that can accommodate garbage trucks, snowplows, and fire engines.
Comments: This plan is incomplete. There is no tree plan, no lighting plan, no stormwater retention plan, and no wetlands delineation. The street appears too narrow, and the property appears to have steep slopes. Does the proposed width of the street meet that required by borough ordinance?
5. Old Business
 - a) PSE&G Solar Farm. There are 18 areas of concrete that need to be removed. We don't know the outcome of a recent meeting between borough officials, Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin, and PSE&G.
 - b) Environmental Commission Website. Nicole Wines is working on our new website. It will probably be up and running by the summer. The old one is still up and working
 - c) Buck Woods. There is a Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) settlement between the borough, the courts, and COAH. Next is a fairness hearing at the end of May. The question that will be addressed there is whether the proposed development is fair to low and moderate income people. There is currently a concept plan, prepared by the borough planner, for development of the northern part of the Buck Woods property.
 - d) Meadows Update. A cleanup organized by the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership was held on April 14, and many volunteers participated. A lot of trash and recycling items were removed. The entrance bridge is now officially open. Steve Barnes is writing an article about the Meadows for the borough newspaper.
 - e) Earth Day Celebration. The event had approximately the same number of attendees as last year's did. STAC had a lot more plants and gave away cuttings. The fence by the beehives has been put up and is about twice the height and size of the previous fence.

- f) Eagle Scout Project. A student sent us an updated proposal and is working within the Scout bureaucracy on it. The proposal involves installing three benches around the Environmental Education Center just like what was done in the Meadows.
 - g) Construction in Johnson Park. The culvert over Buell Brook and Johnson Drive has been taken out. Pumps are transferring water from one side of the brook to the other. The work was not done correctly, so the county now has to put in a new culvert. The work will be completed in June.
6. New Business
- a) Former Midland Ross Site. Honeywell sent a letter to residents in the vicinity of the former Midland Ross site stating that they are starting work on the final phase of the remediation around the third week in May. This will involve removing contaminated soil and may take five to six months.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center at 20 River Road, Highland Park.