

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of November 7, 2018
Minutes

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:06 PM.
2. The minutes of the October 3, 2018, meeting were approved with one minor correction.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans: None
5. Old Business
 - a) Meadows Update. Because so many weekends were rainy, work that was supposed to be done in the last month has not been completed. One short piece of the guardrail must be put in, and the volunteers need to determine where and how to attach the bench, which has to be sanded and painted. The annual harvest of dried out mugwort and other plants has started. The volunteers looked at the new trail site to determine any drainage issues it may have. They did some weed whacking this past Sunday. The solar farm may come to the edge of the woods, and a bulldozer may have to be brought in to smooth things out. A 30-40-foot long bridge has to be built across the stream and the wet areas beside the stream. The next time fences are installed, they should be made of treated wood. Jon suggested we request DPW put new fences up. The borough would have to budget for this. We will ask Phil about it at our next meeting.
 - b) Environmental Commission Website. All meeting minutes are now on the new site. Allan received 12 reports over the last two weeks regarding the excavation being done on Cleveland Avenue. He will put these on the website by the end of the week. We need to redirect the old site to the new one once the latter is completed. This should be done by the end of the year.
 - c) Buck Woods. No new information. JSM was supposed to have submitted a concept plan by October 13. The Borough Council might discuss JSM and Buck Woods in executive session tonight.
 - d) Greenway. Phil informed us he wants to discuss the greenway, but he was unable to make it to tonight's meeting.
 - e) PSE&G Solar Farm. Borough Administrator Teri Jover informed us an RFP has been issued for removal of the concrete on the site. A contractor has been selected, but the work has not yet started.
 - f) Environmental Education Center. The roof leaks in the bathroom and in the furnace room. There has been flooding in the furnace room, likely coming from the furnace. We know the furnace has a leak, but we don't know where it is. The bathroom leak has been reported to Phil. Allan will send a notice to both Don Riche and Phil regarding the furnace. He said he turned on the heat earlier today, and it worked. There is also trash outside the EEC that has been there for two months. DPW needs to better maintain the site.
6. New Business
 - a) Environmental Commission Budget. We have \$650 remaining in our 2018 budget, minus \$20 for the new URL. We could buy a new weed whacker, which costs around \$450, as the current one is in bad shape. There is a vendor in Edison with whom the borough works who will take a purchase order from our budget. Steve wants to purchase hoodies for the 8-10 members of the trail crew to

wear in cold weather. That should cost about \$150. The volunteers already have enough gloves. We will soon be asked to put in our budget request for next year. We received a total of \$1,050 this year and will ask for the same amount for 2019.

- b) 2019 Meeting Dates. Mike checked all the first Wednesdays in 2019 and determined there are no conflicts. The Borough Council is considering holding its annual reorganization meeting on Wednesday, January 2, so we will change our meeting date that month to Wednesday, January 9.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, December 5 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center at 20 River Road, Highland Park.