

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of January 9, 2019
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Council liaison Philip George

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.
2. The minutes of the December 5, 2018, meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans:
 - Maria and John Crocco
 - 1215 Central Avenue
 - Block 96, Lot 5,
 - The applicant is seeking a bulk variance for several setbacks on a small lot. No comments.
5. Old Business
 - a) Meadows Update and Solar Farm Project. All permits from NJDEP are in place. An RFP for removal of the concrete will be issued this Friday. PSE&G is doing the final planning for the project that hopefully will begin in the spring.
 - b) Deer Situation – There is an ongoing discussion about the increasing deer population in Highland Park. The Borough is trying to work with Middlesex County as this is a regional issue that is not unique to Highland Park. There will be a presentation on deer management on Thursday at 6:30 pm at Borough Hall. Environmental Commission members have been invited to participate. A possible project for us is to educate the public about how to cope with deer populations in urban areas. Maybe we could put out a pamphlet or flyer for Highland Park residents.
 - c) Buck Woods. The judge directed JSM to submit a plan for 75 units as part of an affordable housing plan. The deadline for this submission passed without anything being submitted. JSM is now challenging the borough's plan. There will be a hearing for this in February. JSM is also challenging Marsha Goldberg's suit to prevent any further tree cutting and a hearing for that is scheduled for March. There is a citizen's petition being circulated for the borough to rescind the tree removal permit. A plan has been generated by JSM with a new LSRP report that supports cutting more trees.
 - d) Environmental Education Center Condition – The Borough Administrator has said that all required repairs will be completed prior to the planned Earth Day celebration. New graffiti found on the outside low wall last week has been reported to DPW.
 - e) Master Plan – A group is meeting on this monthly. Steve Nolan is heading this up and the plan should be adopted by the end of this year.
6. New Business
 - a) We agreed to pay our 2019 annual dues to ANJEC.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6, at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center at 20 River Road, Highland Park.