

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of September 4, 2019
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, S. Barnes, K. Swaine, Allan Williams,
Councilman Phil George

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.
2. The minutes of the August 7, 2019, meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence: None

4. Site Plan

Urban Renewal LLC
31 River Road
236 South 11th Avenue
Block 183, Lot 24

Preliminary and final major site plan. Old medical office building was already demolished. Plan is to construct a new residential building containing 40 units.

Comments: The outdoor lighting plan should include hooded or helmeted exterior lights. Retain as much stormwater on site as possible using either a stormwater retention basin or some other retention system.

5. Old Business

a) PSE&G Solar Farm - Construction is now underway.

b) Solop Major Subdivision Update. The proposal was memorialized at the August 8th Planning Board with a lot of remaining uncertainties. The plan proposed for this property includes a new street (extension to Skyview Terrace) which will be only 20 feet wide. The width of the existing street is 31 feet. The Planning Board agreed to a 20-foot street width and approved the concept plan although it is still subject to review by the Police Department, Fire Department, EMS, and Department of Public Works. No comments have been received yet. The plan includes a sidewalk along only one side of the new street but no curbs, storm sewers, or street lighting. There is still a question of whether the current conservation easement, designed for a public walking path, will be managed by the county or the borough. Exactly where the public path will be located also remains unclear. A new easement for the path of stormwater on the property is also currently being discussed.

c) Meadows Update. Everything for the current grant has been completed. 100 new plants are in the ground and are being watered regularly by the Steve and Meadows Trail Crew. Deer repellent is being sprayed on the new plants. A long-term management plan to maintain the trail is still needed.

- d) NRT Grant and Future Grants – Rules have changed. The Borough Administrator has requested us to let her know if changes are made to the grant.
- e) Buck Woods. No new information due to environmental cleanup lawsuit.
- f) Environmental Commission Website. Allan worked on this for 8 hours. The minutes can now be posted.
- g) Fence Repairs. Budget this item for 2020.
- h) Master Plan Reexamination – A community survey is being conducted asking what residents want to see changed in the new Master Plan, such as suggestions for the commercial corridor. At least two public meetings will be held on the Master Plan re-examination. At their November meeting, the Planning Board will vote to either approve or disapprove the revised Master Plan.
- i) Deer Population – After the earlier deer counting project using a drone, the report was never finished and all the data was lost. Will redo the study after the leaves have fallen and the deer will be easier to spot from the air.
- j) ANJEC annual dues were paid.
- k) Budget - \$550 remaining in our annual budget.

6. New Business

- a) Herbicides and Pesticides used in County parks – Some locations in Donaldson Park were recently sprayed with no warning flags. Phil has contacted the county and will report when he hears back.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, in the Environmental Education Center at 20 River Road, Highland Park.