

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of January 8, 2020
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Laurel Kornfeld, Allan Williams, Council liaison Philip George

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:14 PM.
2. The minutes of the December 4, 2019, meeting were approved.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans: None
5. Old Business
 - a) PSE&G Solar Farm. Phil reported that the solar farm is fully operational.
 - b) Meadows Remediation. On December 5, a meeting was held at the Meadows to discuss remediation of the area. Bruce Koch was supposed to meet with the contractor. We don't know what happened at the meeting. We questioned whether the fiscal report for the grant has been completed.
 - c) SOLOP Project. A draft conservation easement for the site was due in November but to date has not been submitted.
 - d) Buck Woods. There are a lot of trucks at the site. The developer has been issued a permit to cut down another 30 trees. Borough Administrator Teri Jover wants more detail about the work the developer plans to do at the site.
 - e) Nature Conservancy Grant Application. An application for a grant of \$2,700 has been submitted for the purpose of planting 200 trees at the Meadows along the river. We will be informed by January 27 as to whether we will receive the grant. If we do, it includes a requirement to report every six months over four years to the Nature Conservancy on how the new trees are doing.
 - f) Park Partners Grant. Steve is applying jointly with Mary Denver of STAC for a grant to fund maintenance of the Native Plant Reserve and part of the Meadows Trail. The application deadline is this Friday, January 10, at noon. If we get the grant, it will be divided evenly between the Environmental Commission and STAC. Most of the money will be used for maintenance equipment. The Park Partners Grant comes from the borough's budget. Public voting on grants in various categories will take place on Sunday, February 16.
 - g) Environmental Commission Website. Allan will finish working on this tomorrow and will add more photographs. Our site is now linked to the borough website.

- h) Master Plan Re-examination. The Master Plan recommends rezoning of various sites. We need people to come to meetings and urge the Borough Council to rezone the Meadows and the site of the solar farm. A new Sustainable Resource zone has been proposed. Under this zone, a location could be used for leaf composting. We need to get the exact blocks and lots of these sites and add them to the new Sustainable Resource zone.
- i) Cycling and Pedestrian Plan. At its Thursday meeting, the Planning Board will discuss this to determine whether it should be incorporated into the Master Plan as a vision statement. One of the plan's recommendations is removing 62 parking spaces on the south side of Raritan Avenue. This would require state approval, as Route 27 is a state highway. Another proposal is to place bicycle paths along both sides of several streets and narrow those streets to a single lane down the center for cars. Adoption of any of these individual proposals would require a task force to gather information, determine the costs, and conduct traffic studies. All would require borough approval and have to be enacted through an ordinance.

6. New Business

- a) PSE&G Work. PSE&G is doing work on the north side replacing gas mains, then repaving the streets. They will repave all the streets they disturb.

- 7. The meeting adjourned at 9 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center, 20 River Road, Highland Park.