

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of March 4, 2020
Minutes

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:06 PM.
2. The minutes of the February 5, 2020, meeting were approved with one correction. Item 5g should read the Master Plan review was approved by the Planning Board instead of by the Planning Board and Borough Council.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans: None
5. Old Business
 - a) Meadows Update. The trail volunteers held their annual planning meeting several weeks ago. They came up with ideas and objectives for the new season and plan to start working on the trail in a few weeks. The main work will be performed in early April. The trail now needs to be remediated from the contractor's remediation that was done. We also need wood chips, new logs, and branches to line the trail edge. DPW is working on getting wood chips. If needed, they will purchase them. Two buried metal tanks were removed by DPW from a section of the Meadows near the Edison border at the recommendation of the DEP. One of those tanks was near the trail. Craige put together a list of plant and tree species for purchase with the reforestation grant; we hope to have these by mid-April. The trail needs to be resurfaced. We're getting 200 seedlings for trees and shrubs, all of which have to be in the ground by July 1. The trail crew wants to hold two major volunteer events, one for planting, and the other for shoveling wood chips. The crew is currently picking planting sites and removing invasives in these areas. Two new people volunteered for the trail crew. The volunteers decided to make a video of the Meadows Trail, for which they contacted HPTV. They will do a tour for HPTV during the summer. Once complete, the video will be placed on various local Facebook pages, on the Environmental Commission's website, and on the borough's website. Phil informed us that the lots along the bike path will be rezoned this year.
 - b) SOLOP Project. No new information.
 - c) Proposed School at 433 Cleveland Avenue. Allan reported that the Planning Board had minor comments on the redevelopment plan but approved it. The Borough Council will review the plan next. Phil noted that for its review, the Council needs to see the police and fire departments' reports on the plan.
 - d) Park Partners Grant. We received the Park Partners Grant together with the Shade Tree Advisory Committee. The total amount is \$2,000. We will use the Environmental Commission's half to purchase two cameras capable of taking pictures at night for placement slightly off the Meadows Trail. Both cameras will be Reconyx Hyperfire 2s and have lock cables. We expect to get them within the next six months.
 - e) Reforestation Grant: See section above on Meadows Trail.
 - f) Park Partners Composting Program. Someone wants to compost for the community in exchange for a fee. They applied for a Park Partners' grant but did not get it. In exchange

for the fee, they propose to pick up items to be composted and drop off the compost. They need a license from DEP for the project.

- g) Environmental Commission Website. An up-to-date listing of birds seen in Highland Park has been posted. We also posted that we got the reforestation grant and that we need volunteers for the Meadows Trail. We will post an announcement that we received the Park Partners grant.
 - h) PSE&G Solar Farm. PSE&G is going to put informational signage up at the site. The borough is getting its first check for the rental.
6. New Business
- a) Revisions to Tree Ordinance. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee is working on redesigning the tree planting ordinance. The Borough Council will vote on it sometime within the next one to two months.
 - b) Submissions for Management of Our Water and Sewer System. Tomorrow, the Borough Council will review submissions for management of our water and sewer system. The consultant came up with four plans that would supply personnel to do the job together with DPW employees.
7. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on Wednesday, April 1 at 8 PM in the Environmental Education Center at 20 River Road, Highland Park.