

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of November 4, 2020 – Via Zoom
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Ethan Schoolman, Allan Williams, Council Liaison Philip George

Guests: Rory Berry

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.
2. The minutes of the October 7, 2020, meeting were approved with minor changes.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans:
 - a) Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion Girl's Division
Major/Preliminary/Final Site Plan
Docket No: P2020-02
A private girl's school is proposed for several lots at the end of Cleveland Avenue. The site plan was distributed electronically to all Environmental Commission members for review. The Planning Board may hear this application as early as December.
Potential environmental issues include increased traffic, parking, landscaping plans, and storm water runoff.
 - b) The JSM site plan proposal for Gabrielle Estates on the Buck Woods site has been deemed incomplete by the Planning Board.
5. Old Business
 - a) Reforestation Grant. - The grant was for a mix of 200 new trees and shrubs to be planted in the Meadows. We received the trees and shrubs in July, and all have now been planted by volunteers. The volunteers will follow up and continue to check the new trees for damage every six months. The final grant report will be submitted tomorrow.
 - b) Meadows Trail. – The public is continuing to use the trail and our volunteers are continuing to maintain the trail.
 - c) 2020 Budget – There is still \$487 remaining in our annual budget. The commission would like to spend it on additional supplies for maintenance of the Meadows trail and to possibly extend the boardwalk. A detailed list of the supplies will be developed.
 - d) Resolution on Proposed LNG Plant in Gibbstown, South Jersey – We agreed that we are opposed to construction of the plant and support the resolution.
 - e) Animal Cameras – Two cameras were purchased as part of the Park Partners grant and should be operational within the next 2 weeks. The cameras can hold up to 80,000 images and are there to document what animals are present in the Meadows. The cameras will be placed in locked cages to prevent theft.
 - f) Deer Population Issue -. The Borough Administrator is preparing a comprehensive deer management plan. The plan will be available to the public once it is completed and will have to be approved or modified by the Borough Council.
 - g) Environmental Commission Website – Allan will update the website with new grant information and with the latest news about the Meadows.

6. New Business
 - a) Plastic Bag Ban. - The state legislature passed a plastic bag and container ban last month which the governor signed into law today. There is an 18-month period over which it will be implemented. No decision has yet been made as to whether the borough should resume implementing its plastic bag ban. The question is whether we should wait for the state to act or be more forceful in enforcing the ban with local merchants.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 8 PM via Zoom.