

**Highland Park Environmental Commission**  
Meeting of October 6, 2021  
Minutes

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 PM. There was not quorum, so no formal actions were taken.
2. The minutes of the September 1, 2021, meeting was reviewed (but couldn't be approved) with one spelling correction.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Site Plans: None
5. Old Business
  - a) 238 Cleveland Avenue. Allan submitted a report on 238 Cleveland to the Planning Board, Borough Council, Environmental Commission, and various lawyers and engineers involved. The goal is to make the problems with such applications never happens again. We never received information on Phase 2. The Planning Board did get an LSRP letter, but it may need to be updated. Several attachments are still missing. At its meeting next week, the Planning Board will discuss changing the regulations to require a complete package provided ahead of time if there are environmental issues at the site. The applicant did all the testing here in November 2020 but did not submit this information with their application. Allan will set up a meeting with Borough Administrator Teri Jover to discuss the perspective of the Planning Board and Environmental Commission on this. According to the LSRP, some of the Phase 2 testing has been done, but some has not. Borough Engineer Bruce Koch will comment about this at the next Planning Board meeting. The application was approved with several Conditions of Approval, which included testing results on the dust, which blew onto Harrison Avenue properties, be submitted. One sample of "dust" was submitted but there is no chain of custody. The residents of Harrison Avenue behind the property are very concerned about potential impacts.
  - b) Meadows Update. The volunteers are working on fixing the boardwalk and doing routine maintenance. They need \$400 of concrete and rebar to perform the necessary work. The boardwalk was moved by Hurricane Ida, and there is clear damage from the storm. Phil said the borough is requesting FEMA reimbursements, and we may be able to put in for DPW labor on restoring the boardwalk and for at least \$10,000 in damages. We can spend the money in advance and then be reimbursed for it. Mike at DPW is coordinating with Teri Jover on this.
  - c) Artists' Collective. We asked how long the Artists' Collective display will be at the Environmental Education Center. Phil said the plan is to move it in early October. Some of the artwork is being rotated in and out. Phil advised the Collective to reach out to Mike and Allan regarding use of the building.
  - d) Spotted Lantern Flies. They have been seen all over Highland Park. We put information about destroying their egg sacs on our website. Middlesex County and Rutgers held a seminar about this, where they warned against overuse of pesticides. Duke Farms will hold a webinar on how to create spotted lantern fly traps.

- e) DCA Model Ordinance on Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. The DCA has issued a model ordinance, which is mandatory for municipalities to set up electric vehicle charging stations. The ordinance requirements are effective as of September 10 for preliminary and final site plans that were submitted after this date. New developments are required to make ready spaces with wiring and the foundational requirements for future charging stations. This is only for new construction. Putting these in gives an applicant a two for one credit for parking requirements. Electric vehicle charging stations cannot take up more than 10 percent of a parking site. Any development with more than 25 parking stations must have electric vehicle charging stations. There are also the option of municipalities making some requirements regarding electric vehicles charging more effective with additional chargers. One establishes a parking spot for electric vehicles, but the vehicle must be charging while parked there. Electric vehicle charging stations are now accessory uses in all zones. The borough wants additional discussion regarding adoption of the optional ordinances. The Borough will have to pass their own ordinance if the future.
  - f) Environmental Commission Website. The minutes of the July 2021 meeting and a short blog entry about the spotted lantern fly are up.
  - g) Trail Cameras. Nothing new.
  - h) Stormwater Management and Hurricane Ida. Phil reported there were numerous complaints about flooding from Hurricane Ida. The heavy downpours of September 16-17 also caused flooding problems. We know our stormwater system is antiquated. Our storm sewers need to be flushed out and cleaned. Middlesex Water has begun this process. Borough officials will meet with Middlesex Water representatives next week to discuss camera inspections and cleanings.
  - i) Future Meetings. The Commission will conduct its meetings on Zoom for the rest of the year.
6. New Business: None
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 8 PM on Zoom.