

Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of February 2, 2022

Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Craige Ambroch, Karen Swaine,
Allan Williams, Council Liaison Phillip George

Guest: Mark Lesko

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:07 pm.
2. The Minutes of January 2, 2022 were approved with minor corrections.
3. Correspondence None.
4. Site applications None.
5. Purchase Order for Meadow/Shopping – Craige reported that Mike Wieczorkiewicz, DPW, had contacted him and that that a trip to Home Depot was scheduled for Wednesday, February 10.
6. 238 Cleveland Avenue – Bruce Koch, CME, in his compliance review for 238 Cleveland Ave had requested an integrated summary report on the remediation of the property with all testing reports as appendices. A report from the LSRP for the site was received by the Borough on January 27. The report is NOT an integrated summary of the work performed. One outstanding item was a study of ground penetrating radar on Lot 31. In the report they had the previous GPR testing on lots 29 and 30. The report was also supposed to provide a map with location of various samples taken; what was provided was a listing of the setback for the newly created 7 lots. In addition, during the demolition of the lots, dust was carried into the Harrison Ave neighborhood. A sample of the “dust/dirt” was taken (no location, no chain of custody), which was a Condition of Approval, the LSRP indicates that this issue was not commentable. The LSRP report is not acceptable to the Brough Engineer or to Rebecca Hand, chair of the Planning Board.
7. Check List for site applications – The Borough Administrator is working on an enhanced protocol for demolition of buildings. The PB is working on additions to the site application check list. The goal is to prevent future “238 Cleveland Ave situation”
8. Light Pollution on Cleveland Ave – As recommend by the Council Liaison, a memo was sent to Scott Brescher, Construction Office. and Teri Jover, Borough Administrator, with a listing of the sites where light spills over the property lines in violation of 230-85-B. Scott responded that his office will look into it,
9. Leaf Blower Ordinance - Allan will be discussing the various issues with several contractors. Should have something substantial for next meeting.
10. Art Collective- They will continue their exhibit until April 17, 2022.
11. Website- Minute from December have been uploaded. A blog of the Christmas Bird Count for the Raritan Estuary will be posted in the next few days,
12. Trail Cam -Need to retrieve a camera, once the snow melts

13. Greenway Study -There was a discussion that this project was bigger than what Borough can handle. It would be better handled at the County level. The county had more influence in getting easements, it should be noted that the Borough has received a grant of \$225,000 for a feasibility study for a link between Johnson and Donaldson Park. It was noted that the EC did a feasibility study in the 1994 but it would be of historical interest only. Along this line, the Polos' Easement property, has a no trespassing signs.
14. Green Amendment to NJ Constitution – Phil indicated that this proposed amendment was important. It would allow organizations to sue in state and federal court over issue dealing with clean air, water, and the environment.
15. New Business + Jonathan brought up the issue of various homes and businesses have sumps pumps that pump water form the basement into the street that is freezing and covering parts of streets with ice - an obvious hazard to pedestrians and automobiles. Phil indicated that this was a problem, which the borough is attempting to deal with. A related problem is that water sump pumps are being diverted into the sanitary sewer which is a cost to the tax payers. The Borough is putting in new water meters as many of the old ones are not working properly. These meters can be read from outside the home or businesses and indicated if there is a problem with the meter.
16. New Business – Craige indicated that he would be attending one of Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) seminars, Allan recommended that Craige take the Environmental Commissioner course.
17. New Business- Karen wanted to discuss the Storm Water project. Phil indicated that it is a requirement for the Stormwater permit to have an educational component on stormwater. It is being performed by the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (LRWSP). There is a discussion on the Borough website.
18. New Business – Phil reported that there appeared to be footprint in the snow of a coyote on his property. Mark Lesko reported seeing red foxes in the residential areas of the borough.