

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of March 1, 2023
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Karen Swaine, Allan Williams
Guest: Mark Lesko

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm.
2. The minutes of the February 1 meeting were approved.
3. Site plans: None
4. Correspondence: None
5. New Liaison: Mathew Hersch
6. Meadows Update: Craig Ambroch is in California so there is no formal update. Mark Lesko indicated that the Meadows is in good shape. He walked the trail and picked up a little bit of trash. The benches still have the back support built by an unknown person. Meadow volunteers will remove them in March.
7. Open Space: the two lots adjacent to the County's Red Marina property were to be discussed with the Liaison about next steps in the process.
8. Earth Day – Sustainable Highland Park will be holding the Earth Day Celebration on May 7 as part of the Annual Street Fair. It will be located on N. 3rd Avenue. The EC will decide if we will participate by the next meeting.
9. Karen Swaine provided the NJ Invasive Plant Strike Team listing of invasive plants. She commented that many of these plants are available for purchase but should be banned. She indicated that the State Legislature has a bill that would ban selling invasives. Mark indicated that the senate bill is S22186 and the identical A3677.
10. Website -January Minutes posted.
11. Trail Cam will be deployed in the next few days.
12. Leaf blower – Jonathan indicated that Laurel had not invited him to the Board of Health meeting to discuss his concerns about leaf blowers being a public health concerns given their pollution, putting dust in the air, and noise. He will discuss with Laurel at the next meeting.
13. ANJEC announce new round of open space grant for up to \$1500. Grant application must be submitted by April 17. The EC will consider if they will submit an application. Allan will initiate a Borough Council resolution so that we will have the opportunity to submit and application.
14. Park Partners is another grant opportunity but the EC appeared to have no interest in. Sustainable Highland Park has submitted a grant application to give native plants to residents.
15. There was to be a discussion with the Liaison on rezoning parts of the “Meadow’s Complex” as M. Hersh did not attend this will be postponed until the next meeting.
16. Allan reported that Gabrielle Estates would go to the Planning Board in March or April.
17. Adjournment: the meeting ended at 8:55. The next Environmental Commission meeting is on Wednesday, March 29 at 8:00 pm by Zoom. The change in date is due to Passover.