

Highland Park Environmental Commission  
Meeting of February 7, 2024  
Minutes

Present: Michael Rosenberg, Jonathan Abrahams, Laurel Kornfeld, Mark Lesko, Karen Swaine, Allan Williams, Council liaison Matt Hersh.

Guest: Craig Ambroch

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 PM.
2. The minutes of the January 3, 2024, meeting were approved with minor corrections.
3. Site Plans: None
4. Correspondence: None
5. Old Business
  - a) Meadows Update. Projects are on hold until the weather warms up. Volunteers are keeping the Meadows clean and picking up garbage.
  - b) Neonicotinoids. The guest at our last meeting, Sam Friedman of NJPIRG, had said he would provide us with a draft ordinance banning their use. We have not yet received it. Allan will follow up with Sam via email.
  - c) Open Space/Skyview Terrace. Nothing new.
  - d) Greenway. The greenway study will be put on the borough website. The borough's YouTube channel has a video of a 2003 greenway discussion.
  - e) Website. Allan did some editing and put up the most recent minutes.
  - f) Trail Cameras. Nothing new.
  - g) Leaf Blower Ordinance. The Middlesex Initiative for Zero Emission Landscape Alternatives (MIZELA) is working on the April event demonstrating the use of electric lawn equipment.
  - h) ANJEC Grant. Nothing new.
  - i) Rezoning of the Meadows and Solar Farm. Allan is working on a memo listing what is in the Meadows, the solar farm, and the other side of the bike path. These areas are still zoned residential. We have to decide what we want the new zones to be called. We discussed calling the solar farm zone "sustainable use" and the Meadows zone "conservation." Matt suggested several members of the Commission meet with the mayor about this. We also noted there is an intermittent stream on the site.
  - j) Community Solar. Nothing new.
  - k) Appreciation for Philip George for Assistance to the Meadows Trail Crew. We need to set this up.
  - l) Mark's Cleanups. A cleanup was held this past Saturday of the municipal lot behind the Reformed Church. A schedule of cleanup dates for the year is out and posted on the websites of Highland Park Ecology and Environment Group ([www.hpeeg.com](http://www.hpeeg.com)) and Sustainable Highland Park ([www.sustainablehighlandpark.org](http://www.sustainablehighlandpark.org)). Locations of the cleanups have not yet been determined.
6. New Business
  - a) Governor Murphy vetoed the invasive species bill. Craig sent us an email with a statement by the NJ Native Plant Society on this. Our Assemblyman, Sterley Stanley, sponsored the bill. Matt noted we should reconnect with him about this.

- b) Park Partners Grant. The grant for the environment category is \$2,000. The application deadline is March 5, and the public vote is on March 17. Allan asked us to consider projects for which we might want to apply.
  - c) Earth Day. The borough event will be on May 5, the same day as the Street Fair. We need to decide whether the Environmental Commission wants to be involved.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 8 PM on Zoom.