

Highland Park Environmental Commission  
Meeting of May 1, 2024  
Minutes

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

Guest: Craige Ambroch

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:07 PM.
2. The minutes of the April 3, 2024, meeting were approved.
3. Site Plans: None
4. Correspondence: None
5. Old Business
  - a) Meadows Update. Around 12 people showed up for Craige's Meadows tour and were very excited about the Meadows. Craige is thinking about doing summer and fall Meadows tours. Three more work sessions are needed to complete the work under the grant. Mowing will begin once the grass starts growing. Signs will be put up. A few more supplies are needed.
  - b) Neonicotinoids. Matt reported that our draft resolution was discussed by the Council's Public Works Committee. Laurel will discuss the resolution with the Board of Health.
  - c) Open Space/Skyview Terrace. Nothing new. We should come up with other properties we would like to see preserved as open space.
  - d) Greenway. Matt reported the borough needs to have some conversations with the county on the next steps for this project.
  - e) Website. Allan put up the March minutes and an article on Craige's Meadows tour. We would also like to post an update about the new deck at the Meadows. The bill for the URL and the website is due in June. Allan paid it today and will be reimbursed.
  - f) Trail Cameras. Nothing new.
  - g) Leaf Blower Ordinance. After the Street Fair, Tina Weishaus of Sustainable Highland Park (SHP) wants to roll out an educational campaign on this topic. We will invite her to one of our meetings.
  - h) ANJEC Grant. Allan will write up the report once the volunteers finish the work. We have until June 30 to submit the report.
  - i) Rezoning the Meadows and Solar Farm. Matt spoke with Teri Jover about this. We want to pursue it; Allan will put together a memo along with some maps.
  - j) Community Solar. The borough is waiting on the state to allow us to enter the program. We should identify opportunities for solar on new construction.
  - k) Phil George Appreciation Event. Phil was recognized at the April 16 Borough Council meeting for his assistance to the Meadows crew and was presented with a sweatshirt by crew members.
  - l) Earth Day/Street Fair. The event is on May 5. STAC will have a table, and SHP will give out native perennial seedlings.
  - m) Cleanups. Mark was not at the meeting. He has the ongoing cleanup schedule.
  - n) Sump Pumps. Matt noted the borough needs to revise its ordinance, and this process should be raised at the Council's Economic Development Committee. The question

is, what are we proposing? State law prohibits connecting sump pumps to sanitary sewers. Franklin Township has an ordinance that addresses sump pumps and drainage runoff. It also prohibits doing anything that would create street ice. We need to review their ordinance and determine if it is right for Highland Park. We will do this and send a recommendation to the Council.

- o) Trail Patrols in County Parks. Mike will look into this; we will discuss it at our next meeting.

6. New Business

- a) Parking in the Environmental Education Center Courtyard. This is the area behind the EEC. Two cars park by the solar structure when meetings are held there. Matt noted we should reach out to RAICES and request people not park there. Matt will find out what they are doing and present us with an inventory of repairs being done at the site.
- b) Mary Denver Recognition. We are uncertain as to what the Highland Park chapter of the Native Plant Society is doing to recognize Mary Denver. STAC is very interested in this. Karen proposed a grove of trees and a bench. The project needs a manager. Karen will contact the chair of the local Native Plant Society chapter about this while Matt will email Mary's husband Don. There needs to be a meeting of all parties interested in this project.
- c) Community Engagement Events. Matt would like to do more community engagement events, either in person or online. He will send us some ideas for these events.

- 7. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 8 PM on Zoom.