

## Highland Park Environmental Commission

Meeting of January 8, 2025

### Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Mark Lesko, Laurel Kornfeld, Karen Swain, Allan Williams  
Council Liaison: Matt Hersh

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM.
2. The Minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting were approved.
3. Site Plans:
  - a. 229,231 Raritan Ave, (Block.1603, Lot 32) P2025-01. The application was reviewed and the commission has no comments.
  - b. 220 S 4<sup>th</sup> Ave (Block 2901, Lots 29 and 30), Z24-01. The application was reviewed and the commission had no concerns about the requested variances. The commission had concerns about how storm water would be handled.
4. Meadows Update – No activity. Volunteers do check to see if any trees have come down after a storm. Mark thought we need more benches particularly closer to the Raritan.
5. Correspondence – None
6. Neonicotinoid – There was discussion whether Neonicotinoid impacted human health because the Board of Health deals only with human health. Karen gave some references where Neonicotinoid does impact human health.
7. Greenway – Nothing new.
8. Website – Up to date with respect to EC minutes.
9. Leaf blower ordinance – There is no consensus between EC, SHP, and Board of Health. SHP believes that educating the public on the health risks, noise, etc. is the best approach. Bob Smith (District 17) has introduced a bill banning gas powered leaf blowers. There would be a tax credit for landscaping companies in order to minimize the cost of purchasing electric leaf blowers.
10. Community Solar - Nothing new
11. Cleanups – Mark indicated he had cancelled some of the scheduled cleanups due to inclement and cold weather.
12. Invasive Species Act – There has been no new activity by the NJ legislature.
13. Sump/Pump Ordinance- Borough Council will vote on ordinance (1<sup>st</sup> reading) in January.
14. The meeting adjourned at 9:20. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will take place on Wednesday, February 5, 8:00 pm on Google Meets.