

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2023 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @ 7:34pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Michal DiMiceli, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Jonathan Peters, Brian Rice, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
 - b. Absent: Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Ralph Wyndrum
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Regular Meeting November 8, 2023; all in favor.
 - b. Special Meeting November 29, 2023; all in favor.
6. Current Business

A. ERI Workshop (Jessie Murray)

J. Murray absent; will move Workshop to January. J. Peters will circulate the Fair Haven maps he created and believes they should be in the ERI as well as the carbon footprint information he calculated.

B. Green Team “GT” (Kelly Flanagan, Michal DiMiceli)

M. DiMiceli updated the Commission on its Sport Swap exchange at Knollwood which went well. Plan to have twice a year, in conjunction with the Junior GT. Knollwood GT 8th graders planting acorns and oaks that bloomed have been potted.

C. Deer Mitigation (Brian Rice, Gary Patterson)

B. Rice reached out to Jodi Powers to speak with Council. J. Peters noted that hunters he spoke with are looking forward to this program.

D. Living Shoreline and Pocket Parks (Brian Rice, Jessie Murray)

No new updates.

E. Stormwater Management (Brian Olson, Jessie Murray, Kelly Flanagan)

No new updates.

F. Navesink River (Brian Rice)

NRMC meetings scheduled for the third Thursday of the month. StormX piece/picture may be featured in The Focus.

G. McCarter Pond (Brian Rice)

Hydro-raking project thus far removed a lot of material from the Pond. There may be additional removal forthcoming, pending Council approval. There were two aerators in the Pond prior to hydro-raking; Avakian will advise next steps on that part of the project. Councilwoman Cole noted a debrief session will take place, including FHEC.

H. Third Street Trail (Brian Rice)

B. Olson noted there was a great turnout at the Volunteer Day 12/3. Mark Olson noted there is a similar project ongoing in Long Branch and he is really impressed with their progress in transforming open space. He believes there is demand from Fair Haven residents to volunteer and work on the Third Street Trail space. He hopes to garner more support from the Borough Administrator and Mayor. J. Peters suggested having a Third Street Trail liaison to FHEC to make their project more formalized. Councilwoman Cole discussed the origination of the FHEC and the committee/commission system to coordinate efforts of volunteers. B. Olson thinks the Green Team is a good example to study of which system makes sense. J. Peters suggested having all the “sub-committees” come to an FHEC meeting to discuss shared goals and plans. B. Rice noted the Environmental Roundtable is the current forum for these discussions.

I. FHEC Annual Report (All)

The Commission reviewed the draft Annual Report.

7. Planning Board Update (Brian Olson)

No updates.

8. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Councilwoman Cole thanked the Commission for their work and enjoyed being the Council liaison for the past two years.

9. New Business

M. DiMiceli noted a study in the Monmouth County Community Planning report, citing Fair Haven’s score of cancer based on air quality; will send to K. Larsen to circulate to the Commission.

10. Public Comment: *The FHEC welcomes comments, suggestions, and inquiries from residents of Fair Haven. You must wait to be recognized by the Chair. IDENTIFY YOURSELF BY YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD. Limit your comments to three (3) minutes.*

Susan O’Brien advised that the Bird Sanctuary has a deed and can’t be developed and usually is checked by Parks and Rec Committee (Rachel Griffin). She believes Fair Haven Fields entrances (I.e. Third Street Trail) should be under Parks and Rec, where DJ should be able to direct DPW resources. Councilwoman Cole responded that all these entities can work together in layers and volunteers should feel appreciated and staff should know what to expect.

Bonnie Torcivia shared that there are many volunteers that want to work and hopes the Third Street Trail can move forward and get more support. She encouraged FHEC to keep up the hard work on Fair Haven’s environment.

11. Adjournment @ 8:35pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 10, 2024 @ 7:30pm