

## FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2024 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @ 7:32pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, K. Larsen
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
  - a. Present: Ana Antonnen, William Dorner, Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Gary Patterson, Jonathan Peters, Brian Rice, Councilman Olson, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
  - b. Absent: Suzan Globus, Ralph Wyndrum
5. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Appointment
  - a. Jessie Murray nominated Brian Rice for Chairperson. No additional nominations were made. Roll call vote for Brian Rice; all members in favor.
  - b. Brian Rice nominated Jessie Murray for Vice Chairperson. No additional nominations were made. Roll call vote for Jessie Murray; all members in favor.

*Member introductions were made.*

6. Approval of December 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes: All in favor of approval.
7. Current Business

A. Green Team “GT” (Kelly Flanagan)

GT featured a publication in Fair Having Living Magazine about homegrown Oak trees, a fascinating learning project that is a joint effort with the Junior Green Team at Knollwood School. GT’s first meeting of 2024 is next Wednesday at 7pm, she invited all to attend and gave a history of the GT. Love Where You Live Day is scheduled for May 5, 2024.

B. Deer Mitigation (Brian Rice, Gary Patterson)

B. Rice advised there will be a Deer Mitigation program in place in 2024 and is hopeful Jodie Powers from NJDEP will present to Council soon.

C. ERI (Jessie Murray)

J. Murray hopes new EC members will have feedback on the ERI, as well as participants at the next EC Roundtable. The goal is to update the document in 2024. J. Peters volunteered provide maps and data. J. Murray noted the ERI and maps should be interactive/accessible to the public. K. Flanagan volunteered to research professional ERI costs with Sustainable Jersey and ANJEC.

D. Stormwater Management (Jessie Murray, Kelly Flanagan)

K. Flanagan believes Stormwater management is a priority for residents. GT is working on a brochure to inform and educate residents of the risks and benefits. J. Peters suggested a one-pager of benefits that can be handed out to Planning and Zoning Boards as well as posting on the website. K. Flanagan suggested the EC/GT plant one rain garden a year as a model to residents. Councilman Olson suggested doing the planting in June, as the FHEC meeting. J. Murray

suggested promoting this planting at Love Where You Live Day. K. Flanagan to speak with the grant committee about potential funds.

E. Navesink River (Brian Rice)

B. Rice advised that the River is presently clean and on target to be upgraded.

F. McCarter Pond (Brian Rice)

The south end of McCarter Pond will be hydro-raked again in the spring by a second contractor.

G. Third Street Trail (Brian Rice)

M. Olson asked for a copy of the explanation as to why the requested EC funds were not approved for the Third Street Trail trees in December. B. Rice to forward. Two Volunteer Days are planned in the Third Street Trail area: February 4, 10-1p to work on removing English ivy and March 3, 10-1p.

8. Planning Board Update (Ana Antonnen)

No update.

9. Council Update (Councilman Olson)

Councilman Olson suggested that the EC identify their priorities so he can effectively advocate for FHEC at Council. B. Rice responded deer mitigation, ERI and stormwater management. K. Flanagan to create a Love Where You Live Day budget to vote on next meeting. J. Peters suggested pushing one monetary priority, one policy driven priority and one support item. Carolyn Ferguson noted the Fair Haven Natural Area Advisory Committee's ("FHFNAAC") work is stalled due to lack of support from DPW. FHFNAAC was directed to come to EC for support. FHFNAAC community appeal funds yield approximately \$5,000 a year (now a \$20,000 balance). FHFNAAC pledged those funds to clean out the northwest corner of the natural area. FHFNAAC has established a good relationship with the Monmouth County Parks system, who helped provide a work plan. Ms. Ferguson asked EC to support this as one of their main priorities. B. Rice advised he will work on the list with K. Larsen and she will circulate it to the Commission and Field Reps.

10. New Business

K. Flanagan noted that Rumson collects Christmas trees in January and dumps them in Victory Park to help protect and stabilize the shoreline; she suggested Fair Haven do the same. K. Flanagan will speak with the Rumson GT to learn how this program was implemented.

11. 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.*

Mark Olson stated that Rumson's ERI is a beautiful document and advised J. Murray to read it. M. Olson asked how many rain gardens there are in Fair Haven? B. Rice responded two at Knollwood School and one near Borough Hall and referenced a Rutgers study with 12 slated sites for Fair Haven. Mark Olson asked for the total cost of the McCarter Pond hydroraking project? B. Rice recommending asking Council/Boro staff. Mark Olson asked the EC to consider requesting \$1,300 for Third Street Trail trees in their budget. Mark Olson advised there was a \$6 million Monmouth Open Space grant and asked why Fair Haven didn't apply for it? He noted many surrounding towns received grant funds and suggested EC look into grant opportunities (including the next Monmouth County Open Space grant due in July). B. Rice believes the Borough Administrator receives a list of available grants. W. Dorner made a motion for FHEC Liaison

Councilman Olson to carry an FHEC request to Council for a list of open grants for 2024. Roll call vote: all members in favor.

Bonnie Torcivia noted the DPW is understaffed and she appreciates their help in the parks, but would appreciate more attention. She suggested moving the rain garden planting to April, as June is too hot and plants may not survive. K. Flanagan noted economies of scale for purchasing for Third Street Trail Pollinator garden plants and rain garden plants from Pinelands Nursery. A. Antonnen asked if the Rutgers study listed a potential rain garden location at Smart Start Preschool, as they are looking for a pathway behind Sickles School for the Farmers Market. She believes EC should be responsible for maintaining the rain gardens. J. Murray suggested having Volunteer Days to clean them up. Mark Olson noted that maintenance is expensive so it gets dismissed, but it needs to be done.

Bonnie Torcivia advised that on January 23, Doug Tallamy will be speaking at Monmouth University and encouraged everyone to go.

Dan Scalco noted that every time it rains, there is a lot of back up the creek from Derry Pond under McCarter Ave to the river. B. Rice responded that the EC can put together a volunteer day to walk Fourth Creek. J. Peters suggested having the Sewer Authority scope it. Mr. Scalco noted it is the culvert that is not flowing. B. Rice suggested having DPW clean out the culverts and asked Councilman Olson to run it up the chain. K. Flanagan suggested sending photos as well. J. Murray suggested an appendix to the ERI on maintenance priorities and schedule. J. Peters suggested asking the Borough Engineer to attend the next FHEC meeting to discuss these issues. W. Dorner noted the various Borough Microprojects and wondered if Stormwater management is being incorporated into these new projects.

Raymond Guido noted the Christmas tree project to build the shoreline is a great idea. He volunteered to help with rain garden planting.

Elise Casey shared photos of the flooding of McCarter Pond. FHEC suggested attending a Council meeting to share concerns on this. K. Flanagan believes there are numerous benefits to rehabilitate the bank of the Pond. B. Torcivia asked if there was a list of Borough properties with flooding issues? B. Rice asked K. Larsen to invite Engineers Gardella and Poruchynsky to the next FHEC meeting.

12. Adjournment @ 9:50pm

***Next Meeting: Wednesday February 14, 2024 @ 7:30pm***