

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2023 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @ 7:35pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Jonathan Peters, Brian Rice, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
 - b. Absent: None.
5. Approval of October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes: All in favor of approval.
6. Current Business

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

K. Flanagan advised that GT is having great success with the Knollwood Green team. A rain garden clean-up/planting went wonderful. Acorns are being collecting at Sickles School to bring to Knollwood School. GT is collecting new and gently used sports equipment for a fall sports swap (free items, feel good community event). Mike Brennan at the Knights of Columbus is supportive of using Knights of Columbus. GT met with Sean McNeil and Frank Gripp from Fair Haven Board of Ed to discuss a potential swap during basketball games. DJ, Rec Director, said he would pass information along to rec sports teams. GT authored an article that will be published in Fair Having Living Magazine.

B. Deer Mitigation (Brian Rice, Gary Patterson)

B. Rice reached out Jodie Powers of NJDEP to facilitate speaking at a Council meeting to present deer mitigation information.

C. ERI (Jessie Murray, Michal DiMiceli)

J. Murray advised there are no updates. B. Rice noted the ERI wasn't discussed much at the Environmental Roundtable meeting. He is hoping for comments from Borough staff. He asked K. Larsen to send a reminder to Roundtable attendees and Borough Engineers to review the ERI. Councilwoman Cole noted there are resources and professionals available to assist in updating the ERI and suggested putting this in the FHEC Annual Report. She suggested contacting Amanda Brockwell at ANJEC to learn about pricing/timeline, etc. She suggested having a Workshop session to discuss ERI at the next FHEC meeting.

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

Councilwoman Cole advised that the Borough submitted a letter of intent for a Noah grant and will follow up on status. M. DiMiceli asked what the grant would be for? B. Rice responded that it would be for the erosion at the shoreline.

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

FHEC reviewed the draft ordinance language from the Zoning Board. B. Rice advocates for zero run-off from properties. B. Rice takes issue with the systems installed on properties – how/when are they maintained in order to continue working properly. J. Peters thought the document looked "hard" (engineering solutions). He commented about lawn discharge and downspouts and suggested reviewing the Rutgers study that K. Larsen circulated. B. Rice suggested making more of a natural scape with downspouts to a french drain and rain gardens (create a slope to a rain garden instead of the street); more natural solutions. M. DiMiceli suggested attending more trainings on this subject. Councilwoman Cole noted this is a starting point and ultimately this piece of legislation needs to go to Council. B. Rice plans to discuss this further with Zoning Board Chairman Todd Lehder. He believes that FHEC creating a best practices document would be more useful. M. DiMiceli believes the largest issue is the River Road area where BP Gas Station and the Bank are: there is too much impervious surface – this draft document does not cover that. M. DiMiceli took issue with the soil test waiver outlined in the draft. B. Olson noted that if a subcommittee is formed to review applications, it should be mindful of Planning Board meeting schedule (in relation to FHEC meetings). J. Peters believes that other solutions (i.e. rain gardens) should be listed more prominently. K. Flanagan said she will continue to work on the best practices document. B. Rice asked FHEC members to send draft ordinance comments to K. Larsen.

F. Navesink River (Brian Rice)

B. Rice advised that the river is still clean.

G. McCarter Pond (Brian Rice)

J. Peters spoke to Mike Gianforte at Two River Sewer Authority about scoping the outfall pipe/look at flow. B. Rice doesn't think the issue is the pipe, but what is coming out of the pipe. B. Rice spoke to the Code Enforcement Officer about monitoring animal waste. M. DiMiceli asked about Fourth Creek? B. Rice believes the choke point is excessive rainfall. Councilwoman Cole discussed infrastructure with Engineer Poruchynsky and believes it should be a larger discussion, "Water Story of Fair Haven". M. DiMiceli asked about the grant Fair Haven received for stormwater? Councilwoman Cole advised those funds will be used to ensure the Borough is in compliance with the new stormwater regulations. R. Wyndrum suggested lowering the Pond. B. Rice said the unintended consequences would be increased algae growth. J. Peters suggested two parallel pipes. B. Rice recommended waiting to see the results of the current hydro-raking project.

H. Third Street Trail (Brian Rice)

K. Flanagan noted a lot of issues with Buck rub, so they are trying to wrap trees. Green Team is continuing to work on the pollinator garden and is coming up with a design for signage. B. Torcivia added that the deer resistant plants are holding up ok. She was hoping for fencing to protect it for the winter, but pausing due to lack of funds. B. Rice will look into fencing materials. B. Torcivia is hoping to add more trails in the areas covered with invasive species. DPW worker Dave Karl was spraying for hemlock. Third Street Trail group is targeting a volunteer day on December 2 and would love FHEC support. B. Rice made a motion to support a Third Street Trail Volunteer Day; all in favor.

I. FHEC Annual Report/Goals (All)

K. Larsen circulated the compiled list of 2024 FHEC Priorities that members submitted. B. Olson noted the original intent was to hone in on a couple projects in order to get projects accomplished and be more effective. B. Rice responded that FHEC can't rely on the town to get things done. Councilwoman Cole responded that FHEC is not a project-based body, rather a policy body. J. Murray noted the EC has made large strides in recent years with educating residents, working with other Commissions and Boards, reviewing applications and having several touchpoints throughout the Borough. Member consensus was to prioritize the following projects:

1. Stormwater Management - with green infrastructure approach within the Borough, including water story
2. Shoreline Management/Navesink River
3. ERI and Mapping

Councilwoman Cole suggested maps as a priority for FHEC.

7. Planning Board Update (Brian Olson)

No meeting, no new updates.

8. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Councilwoman Cole advised there will be a new brush and leaf schedule for 2024, including a spring and fall cleanup. Between those two dates, there will be regular brush pickup (placed in a can), followed by rolling leaf pickup. FH Hardware will sell the can to residents, if resident wants one. She asked FHEC to think about public awareness around vegetative waste. K. Flanagan noted she still has recycling stickers to hand out.

9. New Business

J. Peters suggested putting his carbon footprint data in the ERI.

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.*

None.

11. Adjournment @ 9:25pm