

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES for Wed 3-27-2019 at 7:30 pm meeting at Borough Hall

1. Call to Order 7:36
2. Sunshine Law Notice 7:38
3. Roll Call: Ralph Wyndrum, Brian Rice, Laline Neff, Jessie Murray; Patrick Keeler; Gary Patterson
4. Approval of earlier minutes – November 2018 and January 2019; Brian motion; Gary to 2nd
5. Current Business

A. **Sustainable Jersey Project (Laline Neff):** 2019 Plans – Silver Star (150 pts more in 2 years); Copy of what actions we got approved dispensed to members which include detail of each action and what was submitted to get points. We got 170 points, minimum required was 150. We need 350 points to get silver status. Challenges will be reviewing actions on annual basis; 4 actions already expired. We will need to show proof of re-approvals, maintain what we have, and need new actions. Laline to get Green Team together soon to review what new actions to take on. Potential to revisit energy audit (60 pts); potential for resiliency plan/climate plan. Brian discussed the living shoreline to be created with the Littoral Society at the end of de Normandie. Resiliency and flood plans are 20 points; Pocket parks may count.

Action Items: Laline, Brian, and Jessie to get together to discuss potential items related to resiliency/climate plans.

Green team member Pat Keeler to work w/ Laline; key theme for Green team – plastic issue.

- Little Silver ordinance recently passed to prevent single use plastic. Perfect opportunity for Fair Haven to implement something similar to Little Silver and take leadership on this issue. We have fewer businesses than LS and some businesses already banning plastic pans.
- Ralph would like to discuss w/ mayor an approach that addresses people using their own bags but doesn't necessarily want to see individual town banning. Idea is to make ban regional not town by town. Potential to propose fee on plastic bags?
- Council would be willing to pass a proclamation that encourages use of personal bags.
- FH Green Team to coordinate education on plastic to schools, i.e. teenage high-schoolers speaking to elementary schoolers on why they aren't using plastics.
- FHEC – by vote, unanimous all 6 members present, would like to see an ordinance passed.

Action Items: Ralph to speak to mayor before presenting official ordinance to council. Laline to rewrite ordinance and make FH specific. Goal is to submit motion at next meeting.

B. **Navesink River Pollution update** (Brian Rice). Current Data Analysis and ongoing work for FHEC. Geometric mean of data collected in river getting better; on track/confirmed by the State NJDEP that we should be able to release the ban by 2021. The human signature has been fixed, now only wildlife and agricultural signature remains. Some conflicting views between citizen scientists, Clean Ocean Action, and NJDEP on results/progress. Some organizations stress bad news over good.

Action Item: Ralph would like to speak with Cindy from COA to get accurate picture – that we are actually striving towards success.

C. **GIS System for FH (Greg Wright) Options to complete software fixes** – Greg not present. To get rid of this item, Greg is to pass along tablet without doing more work. Waiting on statement from Greg next meeting.

D. **Knollwood Rain Gardens construction schedules update. GRANT DEADLINE (Brian Rice)** – All entities in line (RU to mark out on April 8th), Ryser's will donate materials (Fill, stone, mulch), pinelands nursery – procured plants based on list; put in PO with FH to pay for plants - \$335.12 from 2,000 grant from sustainable NJ. 811 will be called before digging (gasoline close by); Burke will loan machine or will do himself to excavate; will coordinate after excavation and materials with superintendent to do plantings; grant money – can use to stay in account for maintenance; May 31 is deadline for money. If we can enhance this project or potentially for maintenance; action item – next meeting financials for installation. Ralph to inquire about the money – and if can be used for maintenance. Will also ask if money can be used for Boro hall raingarden maintenance.

E. **Boro Hall Rain Garden Status.** Upkeep needed, then publicity needed (Pat Mullens) – Ralph asked Teresa about annual maintenance.

F. **Red Bank request for joint Bike Sharing program**, Feb 19 Regional Meeting results. (RWW) – Ralph on bike committee with 5 towns: Atlantic Highlands, Sea Bright, Rumson, FH, and Red Bank. Committee eager to get started. Only 1 meeting so far. Discussions on safe paths, potential network from Atlantic Highlands, through our towns to Long Branch. Marketing studies being done by outside consulting firm. April 15 next meeting. Action Item: Ralph will report out about next meeting;

G. **Watering Station Grant for FH Fields Rec Center**, submitted 3-27-2019. Applied to get a grant for \$10k to provide two watering stations. Idea is to set up stations for reusable bottles. Stations don't freeze (example of watering station in Memorial Park in Red Bank). If we don't get grant, we'd still like to install one. Susan Sorensen (councilwoman) mentioned that Recreation Committee has money earmarked if we do not get grant. Installation of the watering station/s may be a potential Sustainable NJ action. Expect to hear about the grant results in early April.

6. New Business:

Discussion of approaches to deal with Schwenker's Pond. Rutgers' recommendation? **Request for draft recommendation for Council, with basis for recommendation.** Article written in the 2 River Times discussing the pond. The FHEC would like it be known that there are no plans or conceptual plans currently for the pond. Council tasked the FHEC to come up with ideas about what to do about the pond since its now town owned public property. We've just been starting to review, discussed potential for walking paths, and had Rutgers come in to review pond related to stormwater management issues to provide better flow and to make cleaner. We need to study pond first before we can potentially do anything. Historic town dump was allegedly next to pond (potential leeching?). There is currently no access. Councilwoman Sorensen mentioned there are preliminary conceptual plans to do walking path around the pond.

New item: Recycler used in town is going out to bid. Rumson uses Atlantic Coast Fibers that recycles 1, 2, and 5. Send to Teresa – can FHEC can recommend changes to RFP to include more recyclable items. Action Item: Laline to send to Teresa to edit RFP.

Public Comments:

Mary Mass, 21 Schwenker Place: Asked where do we envision path around pond? Creek runs behind her house.

- Preliminary potential access toward back of pond near the creek, along edge of pond that stops at TRWRA facility; TWRWA will be involved.

Rumors that strip of land between 1 Forest Ave and new houses on Glen place is town property and potential entry point to the pond?

- We don't know.

Lots of garbage on/in creek without public access potentially from behind Knollwood. Concerned about garbage that may increase with more access. Creek/Pond feeds to river – garbage leads to river.

- Garbage issue all over town in public places, education and policing are required. Sustainable NJ to will help with educational efforts

Bamboo growing in creek – may be affecting flow of creek

- We will look into building into future plans, would need to be dug out by machine.

Steven Olden, 77 Church St – 2006 was involved with pond – Black crowned night heron, threatened species; reported to state prior to housing project. Wetlands along west bank of pond. Night heron makes it exceptional resource value wetland with a transition buffer of 150 feet. All 3 new lots have easements on them. Opinion – keep pond as wildlife sanctuary for mallards, bald eagle. If make a public people park with paths, wildlife will stop going. Limited viewing from River Rd. and pump station. Educate to observe wildlife. Would like to keep people out, against walking paths. Stormwater outfalls – remove or clean up before hits pond. Water smells like diluted sewage.

- All species mentioned are also found along river. Inputs from the pond due to stormwater. For the size of our town, we have a lot of open space. We were just tasked to figure out ideas to make it a more usable park more than it is today; will be up to community to be educated and to provide opinions. We are looking on how to help it not to build on it. Water is clean and tested every week. McCarters pond is not owned by town. We are looking forward on what can we do now to keep vitality of pond and to cutdown on stormwater up to people in town to get educated and do their part. Schwenkers' is also a manmade pond filling with silt. We have no money to dredge. Potential slans to take that into account; leave alone or help maintain.

In response to plastic bags, paper bags will rot, plastic will not.

Sue Russell, 16 Chestnut St. – Asked if we have spoken to state endangered species program; exceptional natural resource; landscaping is not allowed.

- Walkway a possible idea, but nothing will be done abruptly.

Patricia Camerata, 24 Chestnut St. – Cleans up pond frequently. Owl missing. Suggestion is to do nothing. Lived in house 27 years thinks pond looks better.

Susan Colbert, 96 1st St – 20 year resident; endangered species nesting in the pond; banks of pond essential. Lots of wildlife and pond maintains itself. Concern about garbage around pond – if we give public more access, scare away wildlife and more garbage. No concern about fishing. Feels more access would be detrimental to ecosystem. Potential for teenagers to use pathways, invite more garbage into the pond. Access to pond and destroying pond banks. Lots of value as is.

- In 1969 banks used to be much higher and pond was much higher. Pond has degraded, storm sewers cause less flow into river and less flowing into pond; 10-15 years will be drying up as we hold back on stormwater; stormwater is source of pond. Objective to make sure pond healthy and access since town owns. We are not here to make it a people park – it's for next generations.

Erin & Emma Keely, 148 Church St. – Lots of trash behind Knollwood – Make a Difference Club. Volunteer group that help with cleanups in sportsman field only. Emma a peer leader. Club is for 6th graders only. Lunchboxes are taken outside and garbage left behind.

- Brian and Laline to call Mr McNeal to put together another group; make a difference club does cleanup on their own. Would be great to get other kids to participate on rotating basis and make more awareness; carry in / carry out.

7. Adjournment. 9:17pm, Next Meeting 7:30 pm, April 24, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Murray, Recording Secretary