

## FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES for April 28, 2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546481622>

**Mobil or Land Line Telephone Call In:** 1-267-831-0333

**Webinar Number:** 824 0709 5630 (this is used for computer or whatever dial in you prefer)

1. Call to Order

2. Sunshine Law Notice:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, PUBLIC MEETINGS MAY BE HELD IN PERSON OR BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS (NJSA 10:4-8(b)).

DUE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION, THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN'S MUNICIPAL FACILITIES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. THIS MEETING IS BEING PRESENTED THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM AND BEING BROADCAST FROM BOROUGH HALL, 748 RIVER ROAD, FAIR HAVEN, NJ. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 28, 2021 IS AVAILABLE BY CALL IN PHONE NUMBER OR THROUGH WEB CONFERENCE (ZOOM). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ON MUTE UNTIL THE PORTION FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS, WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED. AT THAT TIME THE PUBLIC HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION/COMMENT BY PHONE OR THROUGH ZOOM BY THE "RAISE HAND" BUTTON AND WILL BE CALLED ON AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS INCLUDED IN A SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS, THE TWO RIVER TIMES, THE HUB AND THE STAR LEDGER ON JANUARY 28, 2021, POSTED ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE, THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND HAS REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY POSTED AS REQUIRED UNDER THE STATUTE.

WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE HAVING BEEN GIVEN, THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION SECRETARY IS DIRECTED TO INCLUDE THIS STATEMENT IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

3. Roll Call: Ralph Wyndrum (present), Jessie Murray (absent) Brian Rice (present), Patrick Keeler (present), Gary Patterson (present), Jonathan Peters (absent), Kelly Flanagan (present), Greg Wright (present), Sarah Bayer (present), Councilwoman Laline Neff (absent)

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

6. Current Business

A. Sustainable New Jersey Project (status if recertification) / Green Team (Kelly)

Compost workshop last month. SJ Application due in June, may ask for 1 year extension to apply for more points and potentially go for silver. Ralph requests to reapply for bronze this year - action item to discuss with Ralph, Kelly, and Laline offline.

B. LED street lights (Ralph)

JCPL plan to install as soon as they are able. Article in FH Newsletter will discuss the trial of the LED lights.

C. Navesink River (Brian)

Bunker die-off has gotten better in river and bay. Official notice from NJDEP confirmed the bacterium in bunker - not waterborne, not contagious to other species. Die-off due to bacteria

appened 15 years ago and traced back to North Carolina pulp plants. Unclear if the same cause. Will likely be another die off this season with low dissolved oxygen due to seasonal effects and abundance of bunker in the river. Water quality data has not changed, doing good in relation to fecal coliform. Side note: Dead fish should not be put in trash.

D. Town Recycling (Ralph)

Will be meeting with town to discuss items that can be recycled through Mazza. Ralph mentioned a magnet and Brian requested a sticker for the bins since most homes have stainless steel refrigerators.

E. Residential Stormwater Ordinance (Brian/Pat/Gary)

Suggestions made but Brian has not heard anything. Council passed the minimum requirement state required.

F. Town Solar (Kelly)

Town architect spoke to the Planning Board about the DPW. The roof line is suitable for solar. The town may be leaning toward getting a consultant to discuss options.

7. New Business

- A. McCarter Pond - Teresa making recommendations to put environmental safe chemicals in pond and floating aerators in pond as we have been doing. Ralph provided alternatives to status quo - would like commission to come to a decision to bring to Council. Options include continued use of chemicals and aerators, and hydorakin. Whatever proposed, would need to stay away from bulkheads to protect - hydro raking can help to avoid. Hydro raking would get rid of a foot of material. Floating aerators do not appear to have any effect. Pat doesn't see point of using chemicals based on last several years. Kelly suggested to educate neighbors of the pond about using pesticides. Could also do Schwenkers Pond.

Brian doesn't think we need a consultant. Sarah supports hydro raking with the encouragement of smaller behavior changes to reduce nutrient runoff. Ralph would like a town meeting to discuss behavior changes/education. Pat recommends stopping copper sulfate immediately, and that we should not commit to hydro rake without the fountains.

Recommendation is for hydro raking, with two larger aerators on McCarters Pond, the use of aerators on Schwenkers Pond, and get a consultant to review options and tweak if needed.

Ralph will draft a recommendation to Council for use of hydro raking for discussion at next Council meeting.

8. Council Update (Laline) absent.

9. Public Comments

Susan O'Brien - time to be forceful about the pond. Agrees with hydro raking.

Bonnie Torcivia - agrees with Sarah about chemicals. If you live on the water you are responsible for health - should educate people. Worries about birds on Schwenkers with use of aerators. Pat mentioned the natural process is pond will turn into wetlands if we do nothing. We are trying to slow the process. Brian discussed how aerators shouldn't have any effect on wildlife and improved water quality will improve use of pond. Related to chemicals, timing is everything; if use, don't do it when going to rain the next day to prevent runoff.

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting May 19@ 730pm.