

## FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES for Wed 5-22-2019 at 7:30 pm meeting at Borough Hall

1. Call to Order 7:38pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice
3. Roll Call: Brian Rice, Ralph Wyndrum, Patrick Mullen, Laline Neff, Jessie Murray; Patrick Keeler; Gary Patterson; John Peters
4. Approval of earlier minutes – April Minutes Brian makes motion, all approve.
5. Current Business

A. **Sustainable Jersey Project (Laline Neff): 2019 Plans- Silver Star** Green Team – has been active. Laline has list of members. Suggested to change name of “Green Team” to “Sustainable Fair Haven” instead. Green Team would like to open Facebook Page – including item such as waste reduction and to recognize businesses that are going green. Laline has spoke to 21 businesses in town. Both positive and neutral responses. Brian posed question to have a joint page for FHEC/Green Team - stronger page for visibility that we can all contribute to. Laline would like freedom to post items. Caroline Ferguson would like to be part of Green Team/ also works with Business association; Colleen Donovan has connected with both FH schools for plastic reduction. Green Team have been speaking with Clean Ocean Action (COA) and Clean Water Action (CWA). CWA can speak with each business on packaging. CWA has worked doing zero waste events. Councilwoman Sorensen and Laline spoke to CWA about doing large scale events – i.e., zero waste events. Won't have time this year, but next year potential for zero waste event with FH Day.

### Action Items:

- Laline to check w/ Sustainable NJ for name change.
- Brian to speak to Teresa and cc Laline to figure out best way to have page.
- Green Team to lead discussions on waste reduction/plastic reduction at all levels of town – school, businesses, etc.
- Councilwoman Sorensen and Laline to work together for future planning of zero waste events.

B. **Navesink River Pollution update** (Brian Rice). Current Data Analysis and ongoing work for FHEC. Previous meeting was last week. Goal for testing is to meet 2 criteria – right now meeting geometric mean; 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is not being met. After first flush (after period of draught), we are getting spikes in some of the data, specifically near agriculture/near horse farms. Data pointing towards 2 towns: Middletown and Colts Neck. Data gathering will be moved upriver to Colts neck. DNA testing proposed to test if signature is from horses vs geese. Brian sent email to Colts Neck Mayor's admin, but no response yet. Potential for legal action if cannot connect with Colts Neck to help fix issue. Middletown is McClees creek – seasonal. Starts in June and stops in October – coincides with horse farms. Actions required: best practices for farms. As long as can fix remaining issues, part of the river may be open to open harvest – specifically Oceanic bridge east during R months (October to April). May be all year round. Portion may also be open to the west. West of blossom cove = freshwater.

C. **GIS System for FH (Greg Wright) Options to complete software fixes** – Skipped this meeting, Greg not in attendance.

D. **Knollwood Rain Gardens construction schedules update Extension to 6/30/19 (Brian Rice).** Working well. Plants will be installed 1<sup>st</sup> week of June – hopeful before kids out of school so Brian can oversee while they plant. Ralph helped to extend grant. We spent all money we could spend – purchase order passed.

E. **Boro Hall Rain Barrel Status.** Upkeep needed, then publicity needed (Pat Mullens) – Pat has not looked.

Action Item: Pat to follow up for next meeting.

**F. Red Bank request for joint Bike Sharing program**, meeting not rescheduled. (RWW) – John said looking at route.

Action Item: John will circulate route when drafted.

**G. Watering Station Grant for FH Fields Rec Center**, submitted 3-27-2019). discussed last meeting. Being purchased and will be installed. TBD when. Water filling station will be filtered. Laline's husband is soccer /Rec president – proposed to not sell any bottled water in concession stand since water stations available, but instead sell reusable water bottle and offer paper cups. Concession stand to continue green theme – selling recycled products and buying/using green cleaning products.

**H. Plastic Bags- discussion and resolution.**

Laline passed around plastic ban ordinance. Modifications made from Little Silver's ordinance (Little Silver took Monmouth Beach as base). Noted that most bags – plastic and biodegradable – do not actually biodegrade. Reusable bag, per California definition has to be at least 2.5mm thick and used 125 times. Laline revised language on bags, took Hoboken definition for bags to eliminate and used California description on what to replace. Includes paper bag to be at least 40% post-consumer recyclable. Ralph would like single statement – all plastic bags banned regardless of what they are made of and would not like to mention paper bags. Keep it simple. Includes reverse clause if State passes an ordinance. Gives 180 days to allow businesses to comply. Our ordinance does not enforce charging per bag.

Action Items:

- Jon will share with Council as a draft proposal. Will send to town manager and attorney to make sure compliance. Will try to get on agenda for June 10<sup>th</sup> for discussion.
- FHEC to review ordinance and provide feedback.

**6. New Business: Discussion of approaches to deal with town ponds.** Ponds get algae bc lack of oxygen. Brian said will do another treatment in McCarter's and in limited amount to Schwenkers. Rumson's pond has a fountain/aerator. Brian got quote for a pump (less than \$4k) for foundation similar to Rumson's. Would like to try in Schwenkers. TRWRA – can't install with solar, too expensive. Ralph doesn't know if conditions in Rumson pond is the same as Schwenker's in order to install fountain. Council will also need to look into budget if FHEC wants to recommend pump for fountain/aerator. Ralph would like to recommend.

Action Item: John to bring to Council.

**New Item: FH dock /adjacent abandoned property.** Completely overgrown, would be great location for a park. Property owner paying taxes but property is not well kept. Town has property maintenance ordinance and there should be some sort of enforcement. John can bring to Council. There is enforcement. John will talk to Council/Teresa about property and will circle back at next meeting.

**Public Comment** – Emma & Erin Keely (148 Church St). Emma volunteering in Fair Haven. Asked if Green Team open to all ages -Laline responded, yes. Emma also asked about Rain gardens - Brian will be coming into schools to talk about them. Ralph requested teachers to be involved. Discussed getting a grant with terracycle. Bring terracycle to Fair Haven Day.

7. Adjournment. 8:55pm Next Meeting 7:30 pm, Jun 19, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Murray, Recording Secretary