

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – MINUTES for 5-23-2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm at Borough Hall. The Sunshine Law was cited. Present were: Brian Rice, Gary Patterson, Ralph Wyndrum (arrived at 8:20pm), Patrick Keeler, Laline Neff, Jessie Murray, and Councilman Jonathan Peters.

- 1) No meeting minutes to approve.
- 2) **Boro Rain Garden Status / Boro Hall Rain Barrels** – Boro demonstration raingarden has been restored. Need to make sure the restoration is reported as news on the Fair Haven town website. There will be a rain barrel demonstration at the Rumson Eco-Fest planned for Saturday June 2, 2018.
- 3) **Sustainable New Jersey Project** – Deadline for submission is June 3, 2018. 45 points of 150 gained from original submission. We need 105 points for bronze status. We are working on getting 120 points using some original submission items that required minor edits and several new items. Laline provided table of status update, (Attachment 1 to these minutes). Some ideas for future actions include a focus on education at the schools.
- 4) **Sustainable NJ Grant** – We have been awarded \$2,000 grant from Sustainable New Jersey for Knollwood rain gardens that Brian is managing. Project to commence on June 2, 2018, weather permitting.
- 5) **Navesink River Pollution Update** – Results from monthly sampling have indicated cleanup is in the right direction to reopen portion of Navesink River from Oceanic Bridge to Lewis Point by 2020. Brian noted there are lots of wildlife and fish as well as excellent water clarity in the river. Fourth Creek issue has been resolved. The “Find It Fix It” method is working for all towns. Next Rally for the Navesink meeting to be held tomorrow.
- 6) **GIS System** – No update.
- 7) **New Business: Plastic Bag Ordinance** – Monmouth Beach passed ordinance that bans single use petrochemical plastic. Question - should Fair Haven have a similar ordinance? We need to do research first. Potential option could be to ban petrochemical plastic and use organic (corn) based plastics that are biodegradable. Brought up need for better recycling. (Action item for Ralph: talk to Monmouth County to discuss recycling.) Overall point is to reduce. Suggestion for a town-wide free-cycle event.
- 8) **New Business: Educational Program at Schools** – Lots of garbage being left in park areas around town – need to teach “take it with you.” Environmental club has been established for grades 6-8. Talk to sports teams, head of recreation committee.
- 9) **New Business: Sustainable Homes presented by Rik van Hemmen.** Write-up included as Attachment 2 to these minutes. Suggestion for a change in culture of the town via ordinance for new homes to be more sustainable. Solar is a sustainable option. There is a 30% federal credit write-off for solar. No State credits but NJ has certs for solar that can be sold.

Educational vs ordinance. What does a sustainable home look like? We have no examples. Need to provide examples, give ideas to planning board at the builder level. More education needed for new buildings. Note that council has not increased lot coverage – all homes have been zoned and new homes are being built to zoned allowance. Everything goes to town engineer only items that require

variance go to planning board. Suggestion: provide contractors with a sustainable building info package at the permit application stage.

What is the town's carbon footprint? Sustainable New Jersey – Maplewood has example of carbon footprint.

10) **Schwenkers Pond** – Rutgers to pull samples and test. Need to figure out how to maintain water quality. Need data back first before can make any decisions.

11) **Next Meeting** – June 20, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Borough Hall Council meeting room.

12) **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Murray, recording secretary