

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“EC”) MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order 7:36pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Roll Call: Jessie Murray, Brian Rice, Gary Patterson, Kelly Flanagan

Absent: Ralph Wyndrum, Patrick Keeler, Greg Wright, Sarah Bayer, Jonathan Peters, Councilwoman Laline Neff

4. Pledge of Allegiance – in lieu of the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed for Ralph Wyndrum ahead of his pending surgery.
5. Approval of July Meeting Minutes – J. Murray noted the Sunshine Law should be included in the minutes. All in favor, approved.
6. Current Business
 - A. Sustainable New Jersey Project/ Green Team (K. Flanagan)

The Fellow program this summer was successful. She helped achieve a priority action for 20 points and set the Borough up for two additional actions. These actions will lead to determining the Borough's carbon footprint. The Fellow developed a presentation of her work and findings; K. Flanagan showed/discussed highlights. The two buildings with the lowest scores are being knocked down: DPW and Police Dept. What can we do at Borough Hall to improve its score? Bicentennial Hall score not as relevant since it is not in heavy use. Energy use tracking of Borough buildings will be maintained by K. Larsen to build upon database. JCP&L has been helpful and resourceful during this process. JCP&L offered to have a community forum on how residents and the Borough can improve their energy efficiency. Every two years, a municipality can partner with another municipality – see Red Bank for example since they just did this. Economies of scale can be attained with the school district. Council Facilities liaison M. McCue is working on presenting it to Council. K. Larsen will post on Borough website. J. Murray asked if the Borough can continually repeat/use a fellowship. K. Flanagan responded the Fellow was meant to get these programs up and running, now the Borough and Green Team will continue what she started. K. Flanagan also mentioned they are working on starting a Junior Green team.

B. LED Street Lights (B. Rice)

B. Rice and R. Wyndrum provided the light post markings to be converted to LED – it has been done. Looking for clarification on cost of program to make sure it isn't cost prohibitive, at the initial \$4,000-\$6,000 number.

C. Navesink River (B. Rice)

The river maintains its water clarity due to increased phosphorus and nitrogen. There has been a lot of rain in shorter time spurts, which helps as its not enough time to accumulate. There are still some areas

of the river that need help; B. Rice feels he has lost traction with the Borough, but is going to keep pushing for a healthy river.

D. Town Recycling (B. Rice/K. Flanagan)

B. Rice has been working on creating magnets or decals for receptacles for years. What is the EC budget to follow through on this project; K. Larsen will follow up with Borough CFO. K. Flanagan believes the distribution of decals/magnets will be best accomplished by student groups/clubs, like Dermer Dreams. K. Larsen mentioned the Borough's Annual Calendar, constant contact and social media as other means of educating the community. K. Flanagan will work on calendar images with other Green Team members, including Mike Dawson. Perhaps they can be used in the Fair Haven Focus also. K. Flanagan encouraged members to go to Mazza for the recycling demonstration. Feasibly, the EC can invite Mazza to one of their meetings/Zoom to help educate the community.

B. Rice said the Fair Haven Business Association is having a small business night in November and perhaps the Green Team/Environmental Commission can have a table there. K. Flanagan asked if giving out/selling reusable bags there would be ok – would the Fair Haven Business Association want to underwrite the bags and have their logo on them? B. Rice to follow up with Business Association on it.

K. Flanagan asked when the moratorium on plastic bags will be lifted? The ban was passed before COVID, when will it be reinstated. K. Larsen to follow up with Borough Clerk on ordinances.

E. Residential Stormwater Ordinance (B. Rice/K. Flanagan/J. Murray)

B. Rice spoke to Planning and Zoning and they are amenable to discussions; EC will come up with best practices for the Borough. K. Flanagan believes the EC should be consulted and have an opinion on the Hance Road pocket park. Due to the drop-off, there will be a huge run-off; there are ways to mitigate stormwater. Native vegetation and a berm should be used as a buffer. Perhaps kids can get involved in planting. B. Rice will speak to Engineer Gardella about the infrastructure first to prevent clogging and methods of maintenance.

F. Town Solar (K. Flanagan)

K. Flanagan has asked Board of Ed Business Administrator David Joye to keep her informed on their decisions regarding solar; economies of scale would be captured if both District and Borough do together. Thermal is possible for new Police building due to showers. At a minimum, B. Rice suggested only using on-demand hot water/tankless system.

G. McCarter Pond (B. Rice)

B. Rice will speak to Administrator Casagrande on this.

7. New Business

A. 2022 Borough Calendar: meeting schedule

2022 meeting schedule will be reviewed at the October meeting when R. Wyndrum returns. B. Rice proposes moving to a 7pm meeting time. K. Larsen will survey EC a week prior to the meeting for Zoom vs. in-person.

8. Council Update

L. Neff was absent. K. Larsen shared the Certificate of Recognition the Borough received for their Gold Safe Routes to School status. K. Flanagan shared her discussion from the Parks and Rec meeting regarding the parks/litter in town. It is an ongoing issue and they want to get to the root of the problem: follow-up with schools, remove cans, change receptacle type, town-wide cleanup, add signage, anti-littering campaign? There should be consequences for repeat offenders- B. Rice suggested posting them and/or pictures on social media.

9. Public Comments (4 attendees)

S. Obrien urged EC to get involved with the Hance Road pocket park. She believes there is tunnel vision from an engineering perspective and needs to fix problems instead of just employing stop gap measures.

B. Torcivia echoed Mrs. O'Brien's comments and believes the town needs to have more stewards of the environment to keep the river clean, prevent run-off and educate children about littering. She also urged EC members to tour Mazza, as it is an exceptional facility, and to take a video of it for EC marketing material. She thanked K. Flanagan for all her work on the Green Team and commended her for her passion. She asked if children could use reusable water bottles instead of plastic? K. Flanagan confirmed the refill station is back-up and running at Fair Haven Fields.

10. Adjournment 9:00pm

Next Meeting October 20, 2021 @ 730pm.



THIS IS THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN.

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, THIS MEETING IS BEING PRESENTED THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING 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.