

## FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ("EC") MEETING AGENDA

MINUTES for October 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm **via Zoom**

1. Call to Order 7:32pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice – B. Rice
3. Roll Call:
  - A. Present: Kelly Flanagan, Patrick Keeler, Jessie Murray, Jonathan Peters, Brian Rice, Greg Wright, Ralph Wyndrum present at 8:55pm  
Councilwoman Laline Neff, Borough Administrator Casagrande, Borough Liaison Krystie Larsen
  - B. Absent: Gary Patterson, Sarah Bayer

New Mayor Introduction – Joshua Halpern

4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Approval of September Meeting Minutes – All in favor.
6. Current Business

A. Green Team ("GT") – K. Flanagan

Conducted "Safe Routes to School Day" 10/20/21 at Sickles and Knollwood to maintain Gold Status. DOT rep was on-site giving out tattoos and bike reflectors. GT worked with local businesses to get prizes to raffle off in the school. GT is hoping to plan another event surrounding bike safety. GT member and professional illustrator Mike Dawson created a new FH Calendar page for recycling Do's and Don'ts - same image planned for the stickers/magnets. T. Casagrande has approved budget for the stickers/magnets. Rumson launched a "Green Seal" program where businesses can earn approval for employing sustainable practices in their business. Business owners can display this seal in their shop window. It created positive press and is a Sustainable Jersey action; GT would like to do something similar. B. Rice is a member of the FH Business Association and can help gauge interest of local businesses. He noted November 10 at 5:30pm, the FHBA will hold a meet and greet at the Columbus Club, for those interested. Can possibly assess interest of businesses on purchasing the GT reusable bag, designed by a Knollwood student. L. Neff believes the Green Seal program is in line with the plastic bag ban and thanked the Boro for re-distributing the ordinance to remind businesses of the single use plastic ban. T. Casagrande gave kudos to local businesses for their cooperation and asked GT to work with Parks and Rec Director to incorporate some of their ideas at upcoming holiday events. GT has Board of Ed and principal support for a Junior Green Team at Knollwood and will possibly make a presentation at the next BoE meeting. GT hopes this early involvement will help curb the littering problem in town. Piggy backing on Little Silver's Environmental Fair last week, GT would like to host a Green Summit in the spring and invite other FH Commissions such as Shade Tree, Natural Area, EC. L. Neff suggested Columbus Club or Firehouse as a venue.

B. Recycling: Town Hall, Magnets, Reusable Bags (Ralph/Kelly)

Town Hall is postponed until November or December. It will include other organizations, instead of just Mazza, possibly Trex (Acme plaza). Mazza is a sorter, not a recycler and is a for profit business. T. Casagrande offered to pass on County level contacts. Once a date is established, GT will promote it in schools and with FHBA, social media and Borough. GT would also like to include other components: recycling prescriptions, composting, leaves,

and others related to reducing waste and recycling. K. Flanagan also suggested asking schools to collect plastic at lunchtime, possibly get rewards for it.

B. Rice asked why are dry cleaners excluded from the plastic bag ban? He suggested lobbying the two dry cleaners in town for best practices and will look into plastic film alternatives for dry cleaners. J. Halpern suggested it is to protect the garments during inclement weather. L. Neff has spoken to the dry cleaners and they need support from their customers to reduce the plastic bags. J. Peters said the services the Borough provides may encourage waste – i.e. maybe leaf service should stop and people will compost instead. K. Flanagan believes educating the community on recycling specifics is the most effective way to reduce overall waste. L. Neff encouraged the committee to think through their recommendations and bring to Council the items that affect how the town is run.

#### C. LED Street Lights (Ralph)

T. Casagrande commended R. Wyndrum for his efforts on this process with JCP&L and BPU.

B. Rice asked who monitors the lights and reports outages? T. Casagrande answered typically residents or Police. G. Wright thinks the process with police has broken down. He cited studies that show sodium lamps are also efficient, economical and environmental, vs. incandescent. L. Neff asked what the lighting will look like in terms of brightness and color? Mixed based on location. T. Casagrande said the Borough pays a flat fee for street lighting at this time.

R. Wyndrum transmittal to Council, all EC members in favor:

“Lighting on Fair Haven’s streets is provided by approximately 249 street lights, of which 49 are incandescent. The remainder are a mix of sodium (yellow) and mercury (blue-white) lights. For safety reasons, new Mercury lights are not installed as replacements for dead lamps. Sodium lights are the current sole candidates. LED replacement lamps, new candidates, now would appear to be the selection of choice. Rather than draining hundreds of watts, they draw typically 50 watts.

Over the last year, the FHEC has conducted a field trial of 12 LED installations, at a variety of locations to test LED acceptability, appearance, brightness and citizen acceptance. Locations chosen included major intersections, quiet residential streets, playgrounds, schools, and the police station. Several 90 watt LED installations were tested at schools and major intersections.

The field trial was twice publicized in the FH weekly on lone newsletter, and comments were requested. One comment was received on the excessive brightness of a 90 watt light, by a person who did not live in the neighborhood of the light. Our recommendation is to go forward using 50 watt LED lights, with the 90 watt lights reserved for schools and possibly major high traffic intersections. As our incandescent burn out, we recommend LED replacements. The costs that JCPL charge for replacing a working light do not support wholesale replacement to incandescent. And although the efficiency differences are less pronounced, it is also recommended that failed sodium lights be replaced by new LEDs.

This letter is to recommend that Council approve the recommendation to replace all failed streetlights with LED lights, and direct our Borough Administrator to request the same from JCPL. The newest BPU tariff does not permit JCPL to charge any premium for the LED installations as replacements.”

#### D. Navesink River (Brian)

There was a whistleblower article in the Asbury Park Press from a Navesink Rowing Club member. B. Rice retorted that clean water can look dirty sometimes. The Navesink is cleaner than it has ever been in terms of clarity. There have been some roadblocks with pressures from COVID labor shortage, so manpower is down for testing. Meetings have been postponed until more data is updated and available. NJDEP enforcement is the next

step, but B. Rice is trying to work together with other towns first. Currently only shellfish testing is being conducted due to regulations. Red Bank did a study in April, but results are inconclusive. Rice will look into Clean Ocean Action updated data with the new equipment it received from a grant. T. Casagrande asked if it was a better crabbing year based on the volume of complaints the Borough received about the Dock and high fish kill period. B. Rice said it was decent.

E. Residential Stormwater Ordinance (Brian/Kelly/Gary/Jessie)

No new updates. Council and Zoning have been reviewing. B. Rice would like to have an EC member as part of the discussions to avoid duplicating efforts. B. Rice asked T. Casagrande how to incorporate the EC's best practices. Borough Engineer Gardella and Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky are the point people on this issue. Subcommittee would like to meet with N. Poruchynsky next year to discuss, after the NJDEP regulations have had time to take effect. L. Neff encouraged attendance at the Council/Land Use public meeting on 10/21/21. J. Peters noted lot coverage ratios are part of the Zoning code, as it stands.

F. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

T. Casagrande said the Pond aerators broke, but it does not make sense to install new aerators now, as they are removed for the winter – wait until spring. Hydro-raking or other cleaning methods contemplated for the Pond are tied to the 2021-22 Bond ordinance. The Governing body needs to prioritize projects. She believes a \$175K estimate is included for McCarter Pond. L. Neff is very in favor of making McCarter Pond a priority. What is EC's recommendation for Schwenkers Pond? B. Rice said no studies or discussion have occurred for Schwenker, as the Borough just acquired it five years ago. He would like to go through the process with McCarter Pond first and use it as a model. G. Wright was approached by Dick Fuller: what is nutrient level in the Pond, has a study been done? B. Rice believes Mr. Fuller is opposed/leery of project. B. Rice believes there are good and bad nutrients in the Pond. A study was done years ago by an engineering firm, but needs to be updated. Originally the Pond was 3-4 feet deep, formed as an ice Pond. Over time, it became deeper. J. Peters said fifteen years ago the Borough was in the same spot and handling the spoils and organic material was noted, as some were opposed to putting it in the Natural area. He referenced the Allaire Mill Pond as a case study to manage the depth. He asked T. Casagrande if a Local Public Open Space Tax would apply here? T. Casagrande said many towns do this and affirmed it would apply. A \$0.01 tax would yield approximately \$187,000 which could only be used on open space projects. She urged EC to be mindful that any maintenance would move to the current fund budget. L. Neff suggested B. Rice present to Council and have a figure of what post-dredging costs would be. She thought the project could be derailed if these same costs are expected to reoccur every ten years. T. Casagrande will update B. Rice on the timeline, as needed.

7. New Business

A. 2022 Borough Calendar, meeting schedule

R. Wyndrum put forth the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm to a vote; majority voted yes.

B. Large Repaving jobs for customer parking; must consider penetrable paving

R. Wyndrum suggested using permeable pavement in more public and private spaces and enforce it in the Zoning Code. T. Casagrande and B. Rice warned of the high maintenance involved in these surfaces, which could be very costly and end up being impervious. R. Wyndrum retracted his suggestion.

C. Gas Leaf blower Noise and Air Pollution in FH

Carry agenda item to December meeting.

#### D. Pocket Parks / Living Shorelines

J. Peters would like to continue discussion of Pocket Parks at the next meeting. T. Casagrande gave an update that the Pocket Parks are authorized to bid. K. Flanagan asked T. Casagrande to email materials/plans.

#### 8. Council Update (Laline)

L. Neff would like to add an agenda item to the next meeting to cover the scope and role of the EC and GT – what it is now and if it should evolve. She commended all the work of GT. She would also like to continue discussions on Pocket Parks and Living Shorelines.

#### 9. Public Comments

Bonnie Torcivia, Battin Road, asked T. Casagrande to further explain Pocket Park Plans – thinks the plans are difficult to read. What is the parking situation? Can there be a permeable pathway and plant absorbent rain gardens to channel runoff? T. Casagrande explained that Engineer Gardella went over plans in detail at Council meetings. Monmouth County Open Space (grantmaker) is not interested in the infrastructure issues underneath the park. T. Casagrande said the grant was written to deal with infrastructure issues, then put a park on top. The Borough will work with the long path that is already at the end of Hance and access to beach will be from these “steps”. On Grange, there is a viewing vista on top of major infrastructure upgrades. The Boat ramp is a repair and replace scenario: dredging as allowing by DEP, then upgrade surface. Intent of the Boat ramp is not for large boats, but many residents are using personal watercraft. There are now three water accessible areas for residents to use. B. Rice affirmed it is too late to make any drastic engineering changes to plans, but is possible for further discussion on ancillary items i.e. living shoreline post construction. Rain Gardens planned for DeNormandie due to a grant from Yacht Works as part of an agreement – it is aesthetically pleasing and better for the environment. There is a robust workload in the Borough Engineering Department, so it is a matter of prioritization. B. Rice asked if there is a breakwater plan for Battin Road, as he believes there will be a constant maintenance cost due to the sediment. T. Casagrande said there is no breakwater plan planned for Battin Road at this time, believes DEP limited the Borough in that regard. B. Torcivia believes permeable is better than impervious and each year we learn more about the environment and what we can do to make it better. L. Neff suggested reviewing the parking plans at the end of Hance with Chief McGovern. J. Peters said safety needs to be a top concern and access points are very important.

Stephanie Rapp, Oxford Avenue, asked the name of the grant and is there a time limit regarding Grange and Hance pocket parks? T. Casagrande answered Monmouth County Open Space Grant in 2014-15 and grant partners are cognizant of timing with pandemic. Due to the cost and availability of materials and labor, it is not a bad thing to this process has taken this long. In the bidding process, the Borough must take the low bid.

Robby O'Neill, River Road, commended the partnership of GT and EC. She is involved in the Garden Club of Rumson, which is planting public gardens, and urged EC to use their local resources to help with rain gardens. B. Rice and J. Murray noted the Pinelands grows the plants for rain gardens at Knollwood. R. Wyndrum asked to use budget to provide plants for Knollwood gardens in the spring. T. Casagrande noted another potential rain garden space is McCarter Park. L. Neff suggested the Junior Green team should also get involved.

#### 10. Adjournment @ 9:16pm

Next Meeting: December 15, 2021 @ 7:30pm



**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 OCTOBER 20, 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.**