

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ("FHEC") MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2022 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @ 7:32pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - Present: Michal DiMiceli, Brian Rice, Ralph Wyndrum, Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Jonathan Peters, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
 - Absent: N/A
5. Approval of July Meeting Minutes: All in favor.

6. Guest Speaker: Living Shoreline Discussion with Zack Royle, American Littoral Society

Zack Royle of the American Littoral Society attended the meeting to speak about their role and findings regarding a living shoreline at Williams, Albert and Robards Park. A living shoreline provides resiliency and helps stabilize the shoreline. It is a nature-based solution vs. a bulkhead and is better for the ecosystem. The shoreline at the park is fairly stable; the main issue is the degrading of the coastal bluff, which is a 45-degree steep bluff. The goal would be to lessen the slope grade, but then park area decreases. Sand can be used as fill; it is best to use permeable, organic materials versus rip-wrap. G. Patterson asked if flattening the slope will be best by cutting back or adding fill? Initially the plan was cutback, but it is possible that more to add more fill to lessen the infringement on the park. The strategy may depend on what the DEP permits say. The property next door, Yachtworks, has a dredge permit renewed every five years. Now that litigation with the Borough has ceased, can possibly work in tandem to recycle sand, if it is clean. M. DiMiceli asked what the maintenance would be for a living shoreline? Mr. Royle responded that there will be possible planting replenishments and to look at the Rutgers Plan for flood plan levels. She suggested possibly getting community groups to help with the planting. Adding sand to the beach is a one-time project; after initial settling, the erosion is minimal.

Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky added some background of what the Borough has already done since the park became Borough property in 2016: Nigerian did a meets and bounds, Rutgers looked at overall impervious surfaces in town, Littoral Society, Rutgers, Stevens Institute all provided expertise. While he believes the engineering value may not be high, he believes the visual impact and creating educational awareness is significant. J. Peters noted that the Park property belonged to the same family since the 1800s; when the opportunity arose for Fair Haven to own the property, it was obvious, as the Master Plan included more waterfront property for public enjoyment. At this point, the rough permits are done, but the Borough would need new site surveys, then full engineering designs. The Littoral Society applied for a grant to work with Stevens Institute to combine work of living shoreline and stormwater management. M. DiMiceli suggested the Inflation Reduction Act contains some Environmental projects the Commission can look into. Mr. Royle cautioned they need to be shovel ready with permits.

J. Peters proposed looking at the entire scope of this project, including all the moving parts: stormwater management, uplands area (including DeNormandie Avenue right-of-way), parking, living shoreline and rain garden. He said the overall cost sounds high; are there grants available for this type of work?

N. Poruchynsky said locating the stormwater management system to stage area, evaluate impervious coverage (right-of-way, utility consideration) and use that ROW instead of the park for stormwater management. Parking and ROW is up to Borough engineering; the initial plans included four parking spots. The Commission members are not in favor of having designated parking on site. N. Poruchynsky said it is a legal question whether road closure is allowed. There may need to be a pathway for maintenance, ADA access, loading zone and emergency vehicles. DPW maintains the park; N. Poruchynsky will circulate pictures of the current situation.

R. Wyndrum believes adding storm sewers to the Historic District will help avoid the water sheetflow. J. Murray countered that the rain gardens will help accomplish this and using bio-retention is more green infrastructure.

Public Comment on Presentation Material:

Bonnie Torcivia said she is thrilled the Living Shoreline is coming back. It is an opportunity for public education.

Stephanie Adams loves the opportunity to restore the shoreline and believes it would be great for kids to learn about. She thought if the Borough purchased 21 Fair Haven Road, that would be another opportunity for public shoreline enjoyment. She asked if silt could be an option for fill? Mr. Royale said no.

Robyn O'Neill believes this should be a priority project in town. She hopes the rain garden planned for the area isn't imposed by a driveway, but is aware a public access way needs to be maintained.

FHEC held a vote to draft and send a position paper to Mayor and Council to resurrect the project and seek funding for the following components: Rain garden, Living shoreline, Stormwater Management. All members in favor. Mr. Royale will work on a proposal for services the Littoral Society can offer for this project.

7. Current Business

A. EC Budget: Develop next year's project goals (All)

- Dedication by Rider (Ralph)

A vote was held to determine if the Environmental Commission and Green Team want to accept donations together or separately. Results are as follows:

(1) Ralph Wyndrum proposed to accept jointly, then abstained from voting. (7) Brian Rice, Kelly Flanagan, Jonathan Peters, Gary Patterson, Michal DiMiceli, Jessie Murray and Brian Olson voted the entities should accept donations as two separate entities. Hence, the Environmental Commission and Green Team will have separate donation accounts. A question arose: are there any limitations on what they can spend donated funds on? K. Larsen to follow-up with Administrator Casagrande on this.

Councilwoman Cole encouraged the FHEC to think of an Action Plan for 2023 that they can present to the Governing Body for budgeting purposes/as a way of requesting funds. She noted the FHEC has jurisdiction over the entire Borough and is the Steward of open space: what are the priorities from an Environmental perspective? Commission members are requested to bring their top five goals to the October 12 meeting. K. Larsen to circulate the ERI and Masterplan to FHEC.

8. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

- StormX, McCarter Pond

Council received two proposals for McCarter Pond work: CME and Avakian. They were similar in terms and cost. Avakian was the original firm involved in the Pond. Avakian was approved to do the work.

StormX pilot project was approved and funded by a Clean Communities grant. Engineer Poruckynsky noted the Borough's DEP permit requires monitoring of outfalls; he will take photos to gauge materials/categories of materials the netting catches. He believes it could be a great educational tool.

9. New Business

N/A

10. Public Comment: *The FHEC welcomes comments, suggestions, and inquiries from residents of Fair Haven. You must wait to be recognized by the Chair. IDENTIFY YOURSELF BY YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD. Limit your comments to three (3) minutes.*

Bonnie Torcivia noted that 10% of Fair Haven is comprised of open space and we should really take care of it. She recommended increasing the maintenance budget to take care of the areas we already have. The Invasives are really a problem that need to be addressed. She urged commission members to walk through the Natural Area and see for themselves. She congratulated Stephanie Adams and Kelly Flanagan on completing the Sustainable Jersey application. K. Flanagan added that they made a lot of progress with the Round 2 application, but there is still a lot to do before the third and final round is due in November. She believes the Borough is already incorporating many of these actions, it just need to be documented or the information needs to be communicated. In some municipalities, Green Teams are more broadly represented, having a liaison from each Boro department (admin, PD, FD, etc), may be helpful.

11. Adjournment @ 9:55pm



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)).

THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD IN-PERSON AND THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM, BEING BROADCAST FROM BOROUGH HALL, 748 RIVER ROAD, FAIR HAVEN, NJ. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 IS AVAILABLE BY CALL IN PHONE NUMBER OR THROUGH ZOOM. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ON MUTE UNTIL IT IS TIME FOR 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 SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS, THE TWO RIVER TIMES AND THE STAR LEDGER ON JANUARY 28, 2022, 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.