

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ("FHEC") MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2022 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @ 7:37pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, K. Larsen
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson, Jonathan Peters, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
 - Absent: Gary Patterson, Brian Rice
5. Approval of September Meeting Minutes – All in Favor.
6. Current Business
 - A. EC Budget: Develop next year's project goals (All)
 - Environmental Roundtable Discussion

R. Wyndrum proposed \$4,500 for 2023 FHEC budget, including \$2,500 for Green Team expenses (Love Where You Live Day, Education & Awareness projects, training, rain gardens and other community projects). Councilwoman Cole reminded the FHEC that they are a policy making body and the Governing Body looks to FHEC for environmental guidance. Perhaps it would be beneficial to conduct a conditions and needs assessment to help manage the Borough's strategy for open spaces and involve professionals that can help. Councilwoman Cole noted ANJEC has resources to help. J. Murray commented that a robust ERI should be in place for this reason. R. Wyndrum asked Councilwoman Cole if she has had a conversation with Council to determine their expectations for the FHEC? She replied that she has not yet, but will take the proper channels to do so. J. Peters recommended staying in front of Council with an Annual Report and that the FHEC budget should be reflective of its priorities and goals. Once goals are identified, it can also help determine grant opportunities. The Top Five projects by member are listed as follows:

Top 2023 Goals for FHEC

Jessie Murray	Kelly Flanagan	Jonathan Peters	Brian Olson	Michal DiMiceli
Hire Professional services/consultant for ERI update	Habitat restoration: living shoreline, canopy cover	Boro Purchase 21 Fair Haven Road for passive park	Conduct a Conditions Assessment	Stormwater management
Build a better website	Mitigate and maintain invasives species	Pocket Parks at the end of Hance and Grange Ave	Infrastructure study- electric grid reliability	Rain Gardens
Stormwater management	Maintain existing Green spaces	Boro Boat Ramp repair	Stormwater Management	Borough Communication and public outreach on environmental issues
Create a living shoreline with habitat restoration on all public waterfront areas	River access for residents	Kayak access to waterfront	Trash and recycling cans at DeNormandie and other parks	Increased FHEC input on Borough projects
Improve communications with other Commissions, Boards and Borough staff (where appropriate)	Add Pollinator Pathways	Stormwater Management	Rain gardens and bank stabilization at DeNormandie	Mitigate and maintain invasives species
	Stormwater management	Schwenker Pond access		Build a Dog Park
	Green Infrastructure: electric charging station, solar, energy efficiencies	Bike trail improvement		
	Boro should lead by example with Green infrastructure and projects at Boro facilities and properties			

B. Green Team, Sustainable Jersey (Kelly)

- Anti-idling campaign

The second round of Sustainable Jersey was submitted for 315 points, and the Green Tea is reviewing actions to get to 350 points for Silver status. Anti-idling signs were purchased by the Borough for Sickles and Knollwood. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for unveiling. K. Flanagan showed a sample bookmark the Green Team designed to give out at the ribbon ceremony. She asked for Environmental Commission Funds to purchase the bookmarks; the Chairman made a motion to approve the bookmark purchase of \$0.51 per piece with a total order of 500 pieces; All in favor. The Green Team is piloting a Green business recognition program for local businesses. Thus far, Greenlines and Canyon Pass are recognized, with hopes to add more. Councilwoman Cole asked about the recycling sticker distribution and suggested partnering with Shade Tree Commission, as they have a product to distribute as well. She will also look into a mailing cost.

C. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

Avakian is the selected vendor. Next steps are a site visit and spec development. Council agreed to fast-track the project. Councilwoman Cole hopes to award a bid to a contractor this year.

D. Navesink River (Brian)

- StormX Netting System

Absent.

E. Living Shoreline at Park on Denormandie (Ralph, Jessie)

- Stormwater Ordinance

Councilwoman Cole updated the Commission that the plans are not done, but partners are engaged. Partners will do DEP permits, but will need an environmental engineer. In 2017 and 2019, there was a \$55,000 capital allocation plus Yachtworks settlement funds of \$20,000; the total may cover the cost of professionals to restart the project. She believes it would be a model project for Fair Haven, however, there are a lot of projects in town right now and she is not sure the Borough has the bandwidth to start and complete anything additional at this point. She will continue to identify resources.

F. ERI (Jessie)

J. Murray believes FHEC needs a consultant to update the document and urged Commission members to read it and give any feedback. Councilwoman Cole noted Fair Haven is comprised of 20% open space and 113 acres of road-space and a needs assessment should be conducted to prioritize which areas need attention. She suggested the entrance to Fair Haven is in need of repair as well as Schwenkers Pond. M. DiMiceli suggested looking into state funding for dredging and the natural area?

G. Rain Gardens (Jessie, Brian)

Students are weeding the existing garden now. October 26 is the new planting date. B. Rice is waiting to hear if Knollwood will pay for the plants with a grant.

7. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Nothing additional.

8. New Business

2023 Calendar dates for EC Meetings: the Commission agreed to keep the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brian Olson provided a Planning Board update: the Sunoco gas station site is becoming a mixed-use building with low-income housing. The number of units will meet the Borough's obligation until 2025. The underground tanks have been remediated. The number of parking spots was an issue; there will be an electric vehicle charging station. He suggested the FHEC develop a list of Environmental best practices that the Planning Board can reference. K. Flanagan also suggested a Green Practices checklist. J. Murray noted a white paper is already in the works.

Ralph Wyndrum announced his retirement as Chairman effective January 2023. He will finish out his term on the Commission. Members thanked him for his work and congratulated him.

9. 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 thanked Ralph Wyndrum for his service. She asked if the FHEC has reviewed the renderings for the pocket parks? She believes the FHEC should be consulted on all environmental projects in town. Councilwoman Cole has the engineering plans but will research other renderings and believes there should be public input on the parks.

Stephanie Adams asked if the FHEC Roundtable Discussion is public? K. Larsen responded that it was not public noticed, as it is the initial meeting for chairs at this time.

10. Adjournment @ 9:58pm

Next Meeting: November 9, 2022 @ 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)).

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 OCTOBER 12, 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.