

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2022 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @ 7:41pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - Present: Kelly Flanagan, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Brian Rice, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
 - Absent: Michal DiMiceli, Jessie Murray, Jon Peters, Ralph Wyndrum
5. Approval of October Meeting Minutes: All in Favor
6. Current Business

A. Third Street Corridor, (Ralph)

Fair Haven residents Mark Olson and Bonnie Torcivia presented “The Third Street Trail Project”. In 2022, volunteers have cleared the trail area between Third Street and Fair Haven Fields, engaged with Eagle Scouts to plant 50 new trees and are continuing to clear and restore the site from invasives species. Mr. Olson and Ms. Torcivia are proposing a Pollinator Garden as part of the site restoration and sought an endorsement from the FHEC. After a discussion, the Commission held a vote to endorse this project and raise it to Council at the November 14 meeting. The vote passed unanimously.

Brian Rice took a tour of the area with Mr. Olson who asked if the EC would contribute organic soil to the area to help facilitate growth. B. Rice received a quote from Rysers for \$1,250 for soil. EC budget balance is \$1,566. B. Olson asked Councilwoman Cole if the expenditure was in the realm of EC as a policy body? Councilwoman Cole said the EC’s main function is policy, but if it feels passionate about furthering a project related to its mission, it has the capacity to fund it (i.e. StormX). Gary Patterson asked about the deer issue and if the project would still thrive? Mr. Olson replied they are looking into it. B. Rice made a motion to approve the \$1,250 cost of soil; it passed unanimously. Ms. Torcivia requested a soil sample from Rysers before dumping the dirt to ensure there is nothing wrong with it.

B. Vote on 2023 FHEC Meeting Dates & December 2022 (Krystie Larsen)

The Commission voted to keep the December meeting date next month. FHEC also voted to keep their second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm meeting slot, with the exception of April due to spring break; April 3, 2023 will be the April meeting date. The Commission was in consensus to keep the December 2022 meeting.

C. Green Team, Sustainable Jersey (Kelly)

The Knollwood Junior Green team hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday 11/4 after school to showcase the new Anti-Idling signs at the school; anti-idling bookmarks were handed out and will also be available at Sickles and Fair Haven Library as well. Green Team is still looking for a distribution plan for the recycling stickers. In the interim, they will pass out at local events. The sticker design will be in the municipal calendar. K. Flanagan asked members to promote pumpkin disposal. Green Team members are attending the Sustainable Jersey luncheon in Atlantic City to receive their Silver Award.

D. Rain Gardens (Jessie, Brian)

B. Rice picked up the shrubs from Pinelands to plant at Knollwood rain gardens. Green Team members helped the Junior Green Team plant after school. They hope to plant a pollinator in the spring.

E. Develop next year's project goals (All)

- Environmental Roundtable Discussion

B. Rice said they can raise the EC budget by 2% for 2023. B. Olson countered he would rather build the budget from the bottom up. K. Flanagan said the Green Team will prepare their line items for the next meeting.

F. ERI (Jessie)

Absent.

G. Navesink River (Brian)

- StormX Netting System

StormX is ordered, but delayed. When it arrives, B. Rice and DPW will monitor collection. The pump station broke on Fourth Creek; B. Rice is waiting for an update from Two River Water Reclamation on the impact to the river post-cleanout. Red Bank has issues due to infrastructure repairs related to stormwater. Middletown has water issues across from Fair Haven Dock. Rumson has an issue under the Oceanic Bridge. Councilwoman Cole found the information very interesting and suggested providing a Navesink River update to Council occasionally.

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

- Stormwater Ordinance

FHEC sent a memo to Council regarding the project. Councilwoman Cole will present it at the Council meeting Monday. \$78,000 is allocated to this project from prior years. An Environmental Engineer is needed to complete the next step.

7. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Councilwoman Cole believes her role as the liaison is to have strategic perspective regarding the assessment and management of the 200 acres of open space in Fair Haven. She believes there is a theme of maintenance and conservation and hopes to find common ground with other stakeholders at the EC Roundtable discussions.

8. Planning Board Update (Brian Olson)

There was no Planning Board meeting to report on.

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.*

Emma Owendoff discussed her Terracycle project that she received a Fair Haven Education Foundation grant for at Knollwood. Due to COVID and not being in school, the project did not come to fruition. She is in high school now and would like to revamp the project, but has not received cooperation from the school and asked for FHEC help. K. Flanagan volunteered to put her in touch with the Junior Green Team advisor.

Mark Olson asked if the Green Team members can be listed on the Borough's website.

Bonnie Torcivia asked if FHEC explores grant resources and opportunities? She believes the Commission should have improved access to grant opportunities and follow-through on them. K. Larsen and Councilwoman Cole said they would forward any relevant opportunities they come across.

Stephanie Adams thanked Mark Olson for his vision and work in the Third Street corridor. She suggested speaking to the Recreation Department about adding a water line from the bottle filling station at the Concession Stand to the last baseball field; that may help with a water source for the new plantings in the trail.

11. Adjournment @ 9:21pm

Next Meeting: December 14, 2022 @ 7:30pm