

## FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2023 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @ 7:35pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
  - a. Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Jonathan Peters, Brian Rice, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
  - b. Absent: Jessie Murray
5. Approval of January Meeting Minutes: B. Olson made a motion to approve; J. Peters seconded. Voice vote: All in favor.
6. Current Business

### A. Green Team (“GT”) (Kelly)

The PSEG Sustainable Jersey grant will be submitted February 10 for \$20K and \$2K for the Pollinator Pathway project and water source. GT will host a film talk in March about native plants in NJ. M. DiMiceli added that Love Where You Live Day is set for May 7 and includes 10-15 confirmed vendors at this point. She asked if FHEC can put together a table with StormX, Hydroraking and/or Rain Garden materials/pictures? She noted Clean Ocean Action will represent the Living Shoreline. K. Larsen to send a signup genius to staff the table. She also mentioned a rain garden at Bic Hall would be a great conversation piece and would love to get one started.

### B. Navesink River (Brian)

#### a. StormX Netting System

StormX was installed and were pictures circulated from Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky. There is no debris in the net yet.

B.Rice discussed the Navesink River conditions and asked K. Larsen to circulate the report to the Commission:

Below is an updated map with all the stations and their estimated 90th percentile values that exceed the restricted value of 163. In order for us to restore the water quality to previous classifications these are the four stations that will need to improve. We have come way too far to give up now but unless we all come back to the table we will be “giving up”! Please don’t give up!

B.Rice brought up an erosion/stormwater management issue caused by silt fences during construction projects and asked FHEC members if they see something, to say something. He contacted Freehold Soil to report and discuss a new construction location on Third Street.

### C. ERI (Jessie)

Absent. K. Larsen reminded FHEC members to send any comments/updates by March 1.

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

K. Flanagan noted the American Littoral Society is willing to get the ball rolling on this project. B. Rice asked K. Larsen to ask for it to be listed on the next Council agenda.

E. Schwenkers Pond (Brian)

B. Rice noted Schwenkers Pond will be a long-term project: the first step is an engineer assessment. He believes it will likely need to be hydrotanked (like McCarter Pond).

McCarter Pond project is ready, but we need a longer period of warm weather to begin hydrotanking.

7. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

In Councilwoman Cole's absence, K. Larsen asked the FHEC to review the 2022 FHEC Annual Report she drafted. The consensus was it was good; B. Rice asked K. Larsen to add it to the next Council Agenda for presentation.

B. Rice communicated that spending is limited to essential expenses only at this time, per Borough Administrator. In the interim, M. DiMiceli asked if GT and FHEC can accept private donations for Love Where You Live Day? K. Larsen to follow up on that. J. Peters noted it's an overall cap problem and suggested the FHEC should continue with its current projects and these budget issues are likely bumps in the road. B. Olson noted all taxpayer money should be respected and FHEC spending accordingly.

8. Planning Board Update (Brian Olson)

B. Olson noted there is no new Planning Board update.

B. Rice notified the Commission of a CAFRA permit letter he received from the DEP regarding new construction at 15 Grange Walk, bordering Shippees Pond. It is the right of the FHEC to review DEP permits. He doesn't see any issue with the application and asked K. Larsen to forward it to members.

9. New Business

B. Rice congratulated M. DiMiceli for being appointed to a full FHEC member, from her alternate spot.

K. Larsen noted the next Environmental Roundtable will be February 23, 2023 at 5:30pm, Bic Hall.

B. Rice asked the Commission if it would like to weigh in on the deer issue in town? J. Peters said this wasn't an issue 20 years ago. B. Rice commented there are no natural predators. NJDEP has a program in the County/State that helps towns create deer management programs and contacted Jodie from NJDEP to set up a meeting to help gauge parameters for Fair Haven. He believes individual, licensed bow hunters should be allowed to hunt deer on a strict lottery basis (or hire a service) – no firearms. Then the hunter would pay \$50 and the deer would go to Hunters for Hungry giveback. M. DiMiceli asked if the Boro has tried other methods of deer mitigation and are we sure this method would work? B. Rice said they've tried deer birth control and that doesn't work. Deer may carry disease (ticks, etc) and cause destruction to plants and certain habitats – this is the only way to peacefully coexist.

J. Peters asked about native vs. non-native species: does the Tree Ordinance reflect favorable treatment for natives? K. Larsen noted that updates to the Tree Ordinance are being discussed at Council. K. Flanagan said the Green Team is working with the Shade Tree Commission to develop a native list.

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.*

Robbyn O'Neill, River Road, asked if the deer hunting would take place in Fair Haven Fields only? B. Rice confirmed yes, unless he can work with the surrounding private property owners to get permission to go on their properties. He asked K. Larsen about obtaining a 200 foot list from the tax assessor. Ms. O'Neill believes there should be cooperation among surrounding towns because the deer travel widely, so it impacts all neighboring communities.

11. Adjournment: B. Olson made a motion to adjourn at 8:52pm, J. Peters seconded; all in favor.

***Next Meeting: March 8, 2023 @ 7:30pm***