

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order @ 7:33pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Michal DiMiceli, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Jonathan Peters, Brian Rice, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
 - b. Absent: Kelly Flanagan
5. Approval of February 8 Meeting Minutes: All in favor.
6. Current Business

A. FHEC Project Management (All)

B. Rice asked members if there were any projects they would like to take on or get involved with? M. DiMiceli volunteered to help with Green Team updates/collaboration and the ERI. G. Patterson will work on deer mitigation and a potential rain garden project at the Knights of Columbus.

B. EC Roundtable Update (Brian)

Brian gave an update from the EC Roundtable meeting February 23. Deer overpopulation- significant damage to understory in Natural Area (noticed by FHNFAAC and Monmouth Parks). Discussed two options:

- Have property owners hunt in private yards that abut the Natural Area
- Work with DEP to come up with a bow-hunting plan and hold a hunt in FH Fields

If there was a hunt, the deer meat would be donated. Pay \$50 to Hunters for the Hungry, the deer meat goes to the butcher and is donated. Hunting is legal in Fair Haven, given rules. Someone is hunting, and may have taken out 26 deer so far. We don't know the size of the local herd.

Historic Preservation Committee- Jurisdiction mainly in Historic district, but could offer suggestions or feedback on other historic homes in FH.

Natural Area committee- Recently presented their annual report to Boro Council and included three asks of Council:

1. Consider and improve our plan to restore northwest section of the Natural Area (had discussions with church to notify them of invasive problem)
2. Consider the deer overpopulation problem
3. Help the committee to be more connected to Boro goals and priorities, including a request for 2 hours a month of Boro employee time to work on mtg logistics and posting of info on website

Green Team- Two upcoming events:

1. Film screening, “Wild in the Garden State,” about the importance of native plants. Will be held at Bicentennial Hall, 6:30 PM on March 22nd. Admission is free.
2. Love Where You Live Day- Sunday, May 7th, 1-4 PM. Asking all commissions/ groups who would like to participate to think of an idea for a table.

Also mentioned that we need recycling bins in our business districts.

Shade Tree Commission- talked about new proposed Tree Protection Ordinance and desire to focus on native trees for new plantings and construction. Will follow up on the status of the ordinance. Also shared that they compiled a Native Tree List to post on their website and share with FH residents.

Carolyn Ferguson presented some background on the Cherry Tree Land on Fair Haven Rd, and is looking for a team to make a plan to preserve this feature. Todd mentioned that there are similar trees on Woods End Street in Rumson, that have lived for a long time. Trees could possibly be strengthened with worm castings. Perhaps a landscape architect would be helpful to look at this area, as well as other areas in town in need of some care and expertise.

Zoning Board- Discussed:

- 2 old trees at Sunoco that are planned to take down
- FH ordinance on riparian may need updating
- Input that EC and HP can have on zoning permits
- Agreed on the need for better interface and information on Boro website

Rec Committee- Discussed Rec's initiatives:

- OPG- one piece of garbage partnership with teams to clean up after sporting events
- Would like to increase water/ hydration on Rec fields
- Mindful of border plantings to provide shade for spectators

a. Deer Mitigation Plan

B. Rice noted the State can help set up a deer mitigation program; he is setting up a meeting with Jodie Powers at NJDEP. Councilwoman Cole asked if this plan will be unique to Fair Haven and if there is any supporting data from other towns implementing a similar plan and are there fees for the report? M. DiMiceli asked if non-lethal option were considered? G. Patterson circulated deer study information from Princeton noting that those methods are not effective; Princeton hunt did not work so they hired professional shooters. M. DiMiceli asked if there was a measurable goal with a program and what the deer population is in Fair Haven? B. Rice responded the deer population is unknown because they are so transient and they will ask DEP for guidance on measurable outcomes. J. Peters noted there is a downside of doing nothing: disease, accidents, overpopulation. J. Murray said there must be an education component for the public.

C. Green Team ("GT") (Kelly)

In K. Flanagan's absence, M. DiMiceli noted the Green Team has new members with new energy. They want to work with the schools more. GT will host a Film Evening March 22 at Bicentennial Hall. Love Where You Live Day is May 7: B. Rice will bring a casting net game for the EC table. Also, StormX net if there is debris to show. J. Murray suggested a scavenger hunt. B. Rice to follow-up on FHEC tablecloth.

D. ANJEC Open Space Grant (Councilwoman Cole)

Fair Haven applied for this ANJEC grant last year, but did not receive an award. K. Flanagan wrote the grant last year; the consensus was if she is willing to work on it again this year, the FHEC will apply for the \$1,500; it is due April 17.

E. Third Street Trail Project (Brian)

Max Ansell presented his Eagle Scout project to create new tree identification signs near Fair Haven Fields. This project contributes to the ongoing Third Street Trail project by creating signage to properly identify the newly planted trees in the trail area. The signs will be approximately 18x6 inches and constructed from sturdy reclaimed pallet wood, routed out with the names of the trees as well as the families adopting them. The Commission held a vote to endorse this project and raise it to Council. The vote passed unanimously. K. Larsen to send memo to Council. Councilwoman Cole also encouraged signage related to "Leave no Trace".

F. Navesink River (Brian)

B. Rice advised the river is clean and there are no new updates. Rumson DPW is working on a pipe under the Oceanic Bridge. Pocket Park plans will be reviewed at the next meeting for environmental concerns; K. Larsen to circulate plans. M. DiMiceli asked if the feedback stage was over? Councilwoman Cole advised there is still a great deal to evaluate. J. Peters noted it is a safety and property retention issue.

G. ERI (Jessie)

K. Flanagan sent comments to be incorporated. Councilwoman Cole suggested adding the Rutgers study and Scouts projects and asked if there was a contaminated site list. J. Murray noted the Sunoco station. J. Murray will also highlight invasive species and all new ordinances. J. Peters showed his mapping software capability that can be incorporated into the ERI. Councilwoman Cole suggested printing the maps for LWYLD.

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

FHEC sent a memo to Council regarding this project. Councilwoman Cole expects it to be on a Council agenda by the end of the month.

I. Schwenkers Pond (Brian)

B. Rice believes FHEC should wait to see what happens with McCarter Pond and the hydro-raking project before moving to Schwenkers Pond. J. Murray suggested doing an annual measurement and monitoring to collect data and gauge success. Councilwoman Cole suggested FHEC make a recommendation to Council to consider a conditions assessment for Schwenkers Pond. The Commission was in favor of K. Larsen drafting a memo to Council.

7. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Councilwoman Cole advised the Commission of a dumping incident in the Third Street Trail. J. Murray believes there is a state anti-dumping law that would cover this issue. J. Peters asked if there were cameras and believes this issue should be examined further. The consensus is there should be enforcement and penalties for dumping. J. Peters suggested having a Police Officer come to the next FHEC meeting to discuss enforcement options.

8. Planning Board Update (Brian Olson)

B. Olson proposed a white paper of FHEC Best Practices to the Planning Board. The Planning Board believes it should be voluntary for applicants and shouldn't increase costs. B. Olson is working with Administrator Casagrande on strategies to meet these objectives. J. Murray will provide the Clean Ocean Action white paper for reference/template. Councilwoman Cole suggested the Commission look at the new Police Department/Community Center plans. Council is now in the design stage, so changes won't be made, but the Commission should speak out if there are significant issues.

9. New Business

M. DiMiceli noted there are solar compressing garbage cans in Red Bank and thinks they would be a good idea in high traffic areas of Fair Haven. She volunteered to look into it.

K. Larsen advised the next FHEC meeting is scheduled for April 3, due to spring break. Quorum is unattainable, so K. Larsen will public notice a new date once consensus is reached within the Commission.

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 is impressed with the map skills and capabilities J. Peters can offer and thinks it will be a helpful tool for all the Commissions in Fair Haven.

11. Adjournment @ 9:40pm