

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2023 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @ 7:34pm
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, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
 - b. Absent: Kelly Flanagan, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole
5. Approval of June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes: All in favor to accept June 14 minutes.
6. Current Business

A. FHEC Meeting Format (Brian Rice)

B. Rice suggests/recommends in person meeting attendance for FHEC members (versus Zoom).

B. Green Team (“GT”) (Kelly Flanagan, Michal DiMiceli)

GT was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey and is working through how to deploy it. GT will potentially host a sport equipment swap in the fall to promote reuse/recycle. J. Peters suggested a town-wide swap for a variety of goods. GT is meeting next week to further discuss. Middletown allows styrofoam recycling (individually), which has sparked more recycling ideas in Fair Haven.

C. Deer Mitigation (Brian Rice, Gary Patterson)

NJDEP has agreed to return to Fair Haven to present deer mitigation information to Council. M. DiMiceli asked if there were deer sanctuaries? J. Peters said the population is too high. B. Rice added that a hunt is the only option because deer have learned to live in suburban environments. B. Rice suggested waiting for an update from Councilwoman Cole.

D. Third Street Trail Project (Brian Rice)

B. Rice believes the project has been successful thus far, no new updates.

E. ERI (Jessie Murray, Michal DiMiceli)

J. Murray noted the sections in the ERI that need revisions; K. Larsen circulated to FHEC. M. DiMiceli asked if a water-story/stormwater can be done in conjunction with ERI revisions, ideally by a consultant? J. Murray responded that appendices for topics like that and invasive species may be added to create a more comprehensive view for the Borough. J. Peters noted soft vs. hard infrastructure to manage stormwater (Schwenker for west side of town). J. Murray advised that the ERI is a living document and asked for FHEC members to send comments. B. Olson asked what constituents have used the ERI thus far and how? J. Peters noted it is a reference guide for the Borough to use to guide decisions and suggested FHEC presenting the document to Council annually. B. Rice said an updated ERI would give FHEC a seat at the table with other Borough entities i.e. Planning and Zoning. B. Olson noted that members of Planning and Zoning are volunteers, not experts and the Boro employs a Planner to explain issues/materials. J. Murray believes that FHEC priorities should also be highlighted in the ERI. B. Olson suggested K. Larsen to circulate to the Boro Engineer and other Borough Commissions to ask for feedback, ahead of the next Environmental Roundtable (slated for September).

F. Living Shoreline and Pocket Parks (Brian Rice, Jessie Murray)

B. Rice advised that this project is at the Council level. J. Murray noted that FHEC should review draft NJDEP applications prior to them being submitted.

G. Navesink River (Brian Rice)

B. Rice noted that Navesink River monitoring stations are very close to meeting the criteria for open shellfish harvesting. Further west of the Oceanic Bridge, the geometric mean is lower. There is a 31 geometric mean limit for shellfish harvest vs. a 104 geometric mean limit for swimming/recreation. J. Peters asked if the harvest will begin seasonally? B. Rice responded yes, then year-round. B. Rice stressed the importance of achieving and maintaining a clean river first, then possibly introduce other species i.e. oysters. B. Rice presented a flyer he created with Betty Ann Berube (Borough Communications Director) to bring awareness of fecal waste implications on Doughty/Browns Lane. He will ask Betty Ann to post on Boro communication channels.

7. Planning Board Update (Brian Olson)

B. Olson discussed the environmental points of the DPW renovation that was presented to the Planning Board, including: run-off (due to impervious/pervious), renewables (solar-ready roof), electric vehicle optionality, native and drought resistant plants and recycling (cardboard needs to be dry to recycle and the crane is too high to provide for a coverage). A Middletown interlocal agreement for Styrofoam is also being discussed. B. Olson believes that environment concerns were taken into account during this project.

8. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Absent.

9. New Business

B. Rice noted that spotted lantern flies are out- stomp them out. He discussed the opportunity for the Borough to pursue a \$15,000 state grant to spray for spotted lantern flies. B. Rice held a vote to apply for the grant of \$15,000 for mitigation of SLF. All Commission members in favor, except B. Olson

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.*

NONE.

11. Adjournment @ 8:50pm