

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 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, J. Murray

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call:

Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Ralph Wyndrum, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen

Absent: Jonathan Peters, Brian Rice, Councilwoman Cole

5. Approval of July 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes: All in favor.

6. Current Business

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

The first fall GT meeting is next Wednesday. GT is working on a Third Street Trail pollinator garden with the \$2,000 PSEG grant. Green Team members are hoping to start planting this fall. A water source is still not available, so they are hoping the neighbor continues to be generous with her water. J. Murray noted fall planting should not have a big water issue. Another additional cost is deer mitigation. Knollwood School Green Team has a new advisor, Jen Amabile. GT meeting at Knollwood to discuss safe routes to school. GT is hoping to do a fall sports swap at the Community Center, if it is still accessible (pre-construction). Perhaps they will align the date with HarvestFest. GT is also targeting a fall clean-up, possibly at the beach with Clean Ocean Action. GT is speaking with soccer teams to continue the One Piece of garbage cleanup campaign at the fields. M. DiMiceli asked if ANJEC seminars could be cost covered? K. Larsen noted the Borough FHEC is an ANJEC member, so trainings should be included with membership. K. Flanagan asked K. Larsen to forward training opportunities.

B. Deer Mitigation (Brian Rice, Gary Patterson)

Councilwoman Cole absent. FHEC supports this program and hopes to receive an update on the status. G. Patterson was hoping this fall hunting season could be a trial/pilot.

C. ERI (Jessie Murray, Michal DiMiceli)

The draft ERI was sent to Environmental Roundtable attendees and Borough Engineers for review. B. Olson believes that using a Consultant to make updates would be beneficial.

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

M. DiMiceli understands the plans are moving forward, but was unsure about the status of the Hance Road project. K. Larsen noted the Battin Road Boat Ramp and Grange Avenue bulkhead replacement went out to bid and was awarded.

K. Flanagan believes the shoreline at Williams, Albert and Robards Park is continuing to erode; she would like to work with ALS and an Environmental Engineer and make a Living Shoreline at this park a priority. K. Flanagan believes there is money from a grant already set aside to complete this. FHEC would like to communicate the urgency of this problem to the Governing Body with winter approaching (more storms, more erosion). K. Larsen noted a memo was sent to the Governing Body in April. B. Olson asked the Commission to consider prioritizing their projects to get them over the finish line. J. Murray noted there are grants available related to shoreline restoration.

E. Navesink River (Brian Rice)

In B. Rice's absence, J. Murray advised that Clean Ocean Action sent an email notice about hot spots at Marine Park in Red Bank and by the Yacht Club in Fair Haven. There are elevated bacteria counts where the creek enters the Shrewsbury Yacht Club beach. K. Flanagan walked educational flyers around the neighborhood regarding dog waste. FHEC and GT are trying to educate people to pick up pet waste as soon as possible, even if it is in their own yard because it leaks to the river. She suggested also educating residents near the Battin Road boat ramp. J. Murray cited B. Rice's advise to not go swimming after a big rain storm.

F. Environmental Roundtable (Brian Rice)

The next Environmental Roundtable discussion will be September 27. The ERI is the main agenda item. M. DiMiceli asked what sustainable requirements there are for Fair Haven building code? B. Olson commented on lot coverage issues, insulation requirements and tree removal. K. Flanagan noted that Sustainable Jersey has an Environmental Checklist (suggested, not mandated) that can be shared with residents – it can be a passive process that residents may think about. B. Olson brought this up at a Planning Board meeting 6-8 months ago, and it was not very well received. J. Murray believes FHEC should be providing recommendations. K. Flanagan to send a sample to B. Olson to review.

7. Planning Board Update (Brian Olson)

Tuesday 9/19 is the next Planning Board meeting. The agenda item is Brite Cleaners at 610 River Road: groundwater. The old Sunoco lot passed through the Planning Board to be a mixed use building including State mandated affordable housing units. K. Flanagan asked about the fate of the trees? B. Olson to revisit his notes and report back. Construction has not started yet.

8. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Absent.

9. New Business

K. Flanagan asked about the status of McCarter Pond: why did the hydro-raking stop and what is going to happen? J. Murray commented that hydro-raking was less cumbersome and less expensive than dredging. If funds were available, dredging is the better route. There was speculation that litigation is involved; FHEC will ask Councilwoman Cole for an update, if permitted. K. Flanagan suggested pushing out information to Pond residents about bumper crop, curbing pet waste and fertilizer. She asked to add McCarter Pond to next month's meeting agenda.

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.*

Joe Grogan, River Road, commented about the water quality numbers in the Navesink River. Shrewsbury River Yacht Club is now being tested by DEP. Shellfish harvesting testing is more stringent. He asked where the outflow pipes are in Fair Haven and would like to look at the data. He is looking forward to reading the DEP report, expected to come out in the fall. J. Murray commented that the water quality has drastically improved over the last few years. She noted B. Rice is involved in the Navesink River Municipalities Committee and should have an update on river quality next month. K. Flanagan suggested having river quality data on the FHEC website.

11. Adjournment @ 8:51 p.m.