

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“EC”) MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order @7:32pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Roll Call:
 - A. Present: Ralph Wyndrum, Brian Rice, Jessie Murray, Kelly Flanagan, Gary Patterson, Jonathan Peters, Greg Wright, Patrick Keeler, Councilwoman Laline Neff, Borough Liaison Krystie Larsen
 - B. Absent: Sarah Bayer
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Approval of October Meeting Minutes. All in favor.
6. Current Business
 - A. Green Team (“GT”), Sustainable Jersey (Kelly)

Rumson has attained silver status with Sustainable Jersey, a jump from bronze just last year. At the January meeting, GT will present an outline of points Fair Haven has earned and what is possible. The next submission is due in June. There should be communication with other committees, i.e. Shade Tree, Borough Hall to see where there may be additional points available. There are two grant opportunities approaching: PSE&G and the Energy Plant grant. GT is looking for support from the EC and Council with these endeavors. Councilwoman Neff congratulated GT on a banner year and hopes it continues. Robyn O’Neil and Mike Dawson revamped the recycling graphic for the Borough Calendar. Junior GT at the schools is almost in place. Grades 7-12 will meet at Bicentennial Hall and discuss what environmental issues are important to them. There is a possible pollinator pathways project with the Gifted and Talented students; Father Jim at Nativity Church is also interested. A senior student at Columbia is interested in a mentor program to bring a composting project to town. GT is hoping to launch a Green Seal program to local businesses, as Rumson did, to incentivize businesses to be more green. B. Rice will introduce the idea at the next Fair Haven Business Association meeting.

B. Recycling: Town Hall, Magnets, Reusable Bags (Ralph/Kelly)

GT is planning a Town Hall via Zoom in January. EC event possibly in the spring. R. Wyndrum spoke with Administrator Casagrande – she is able to use a grant to fund magnets/stickers for the Town Hall. Perhaps offer a raffle to incentivize attendance.

C. Navesink River (Brian)

Clarity and cleanliness of the river has been good all year. There is possible leaching occurring from some properties in Red Bank on the Middletown side. DEP added dye in the sanitary line to see if there was any drip. Leaching is not easily found in this test.

D. Residential Stormwater Ordinance (Brian/Kelly/Gary/Jessie)

B. Rice spoke with the head of Planning and Zoning and proposed a set of Stormwater Mitigation best practices. NJ DEP just enacted a new set of Stormwater rules, so B. Rice said they should let those take effect before developing new best practices. K. Flanagan asked why best practices instead of a new ordinance? She would like to include this topic at the Town Hall. The Rumson Stormwater ordinance is more stringent than the DEP. She believes they need to educate homeowners. J. Murray suggested creating the set of best practices will help educate Planning and Zoning and residents and can possibly develop into an ordinance over time. B. Rice said the EC is not tasked with creating more ordinances. R. Wyndrum suggested hosting an informal lecture with a hands-on rain garden activity to help educate the community. L. Neff said media coverage should be added to promote the cause. R. Wyndrum would like to add this topic to the February agenda.

E. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

R. Wyndrum believes this has been a frustrating project. Aeration is not enough; hydroraking has been discussed with Administrator Casagrande and Council. Mayor Halpern asked if the drain can be cleared to clear the algae? B. Rice responded that wouldn't work because the pond is too shallow. R. Wyndrum noted the depth has decreased by 40% over the last two years. He asked the Mayor for his support on this issue. The Mayor has a \$175,000 budget proposal for this line item and Council would have to include it in the Bond issue. J. Peters cautioned to discuss all aspects first so it doesn't hit a roadblock post-hydroraking with no place to put the materials like Natural Area Committee. Councilwoman Neff asked where nonorganic materials would go that are pulled out of the Pond? B. Rice said they would be separated. If this project is approved by Council, it would go out to bid.

F. Gas Leaf Blower Noise and Air Pollution in FH (Ralph)

A former resident emailed the GT regarding the frequent and noisy leaf blowers around town. He claimed there are ordinances in other towns to prohibit this and would like Fair Haven to consider the same. B. Rice said there is already a noise ordinance in town. He cautioned that some of the new electric blowers are actually louder than the gas devices and may have unintended consequences. K. Larsen will circulate the Borough's noise ordinance for the next meeting.

G. Pocket Parks / Living Shorelines

There is no update due to pending litigation with the neighbor on DeNormandie. Two River Water Reclamation is bringing in sand to cover the line, which is less carbon footprint versus digging out.

7. New Business

A. Scope and Role of Environmental Commission and Green Team (Laline)

Councilwoman Neff believes there should be a forum for all environmentally related parties to collaborate: Shade Tree, EC, GT, Natural Fields. Additionally, that it should present their findings to Council annually. R. Wyndrum suggested quarterly meetings to work on overlapping interests and projects.

8. Council Update (Laline)

Discussed above.

9. Public Comment

Mayor Halpern thanked everyone for their work on the EC and GT. Steve Scanlon raised his concern with the new LED lights installed in street posts. They are too bright, can they be changed? He cautioned to look at the various spots going in before changing all the street lights in town. He offered the Womens Club in Little Silver as a good example of lighting. R. Wyndrum gave the history of the project/research he and Brian Rice conducted. B. Rice believes there are diffusers but needs to research more. K Flanagan asked what type of light is better for the environmental species, believes dim is better. B. Rice said they approached the project based on cost, safety and maintenance. The lights are not Fair Haven's; JCP&L is using industry standards, but he can request wattage, not necessarily type of bulb. R. Wyndrum recommended subsequent bulb replacements be to 50 watts. P. Keeler asked what the criteria is to add street lights in town, i.e. River Oaks neighborhood has no street lights, and believes we don't need so many.

Mr. Scanlon also commented on the landscaper issue, as he owns a landscaping business in town. He asked residents to speak with their landscaper if they are experiencing noise or scheduling issues, as they can be adjusted.

Bonnie Torcivia, a GT member, is thrilled to see the environment becoming an important focus. She agreed with Councilwoman Neff that a joint Environmental group should be formed to create synergies. Regarding leaf blowers, she believes the pollution is worse than the noise and she urged the EC not to give up on the leaf blower issue. She asked why chemicals are being poured into McCarter Pond and on our Borough parks – can the EC advocate to stop? B. Rice said the chemicals are not harmful and he is hoping the Borough will move forward with the hydroraking solution.

K. Flanagan and S. Rapp discussed the Fair Haven footprint overall: we need to look at environmental issues in a more complete fashion. Our footprint should be reduced and blowers should be taken into account. Being Green should be in our DNA and the Borough should lead by example.

10. Adjournment at 9:27pm

Next Meeting: January 12, 2022 @ 7:30pm



THIS IS THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, PUBLIC MEETINGS MAY BE HELD IN PERSON OR BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS (NJSA 10:4-8(b)).

DUE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION, THIS MEETING IS BEING PRESENTED THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS DECEMBER 15, 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING IS AVAILABLE BY CALL IN PHONE NUMBER OR THROUGH WEB CONFERENCE (ZOOM). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ON MUTE UNTIL THE PORTION FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS, WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED. AT THAT TIME THE PUBLIC HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION/COMMENT BY PHONE OR THROUGH ZOOM BY THE "RAISE HAND" BUTTON AND WILL BE CALLED ON AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS INCLUDED IN A SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS, THE TWO RIVER TIMES, THE HUB AND THE STAR LEDGER ON JANUARY 28, 2021 POSTED ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE, THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND HAS REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY POSTED AS REQUIRED UNDER THE STATUTE.

WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE HAVING BEEN GIVEN, THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION SECRETARY IS DIRECTED TO INCLUDE THIS STATEMENT IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.