

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2022 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:33pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:

- A. Present: Ralph Wyndrum, Brian Rice, Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Councilwoman Cole
- B. Absent: Suzanne McCabe, Jonathan Peters

R. Wyndrum asked members to give a brief bio and introduction to start the new year.

5. Approval of January Meeting Minutes – all in favor.

6. Current Business

- A. Administrative: Borough Stormwater Management Training, Open Alternate Seat, ANJEC (Ralph)

K. Larsen confirmed the annual ANJEC registration was complete. She will re-circulate the Stormwater training to the responsible members.

- B. Green Team (“GT”), Sustainable Jersey (Kelly)

K. Flanagan announced the first round of applications for Sustainable Jersey are due in June. Fair Haven is Bronze status (180 points) now and is aiming for Silver (350 points). **R. Wyndrum asked each EC member to complete one section of the application; K. Flanagan will send last year’s application to the Commission to review and update.** A composting workshop is planned for May 2 with Rutgers Master Gardner. May 14 will be the first Eco Fair, aimed at educating the public on a myriad of environmental topics. GT will also invite Shade Tree Commission, Natural Area and Fair Haven Fields Advisory, FH Business Association, Scouts, Rec. GT is also hopeful it can serve as a shredding and recycling drop. Magnets/Stickers should be available for distribution at the fair. A Junior Green team is in the works for all Fair Haven high school students; will collaborate with junior team at Knollwood. G. Patterson and T. Cole will help make a connection at RFH.

- C. Navesink River (Brian)

B. Rice noted it is currently off-season, so not much to report. Red Bank is continuing their infrastructure work.

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

Fair Haven only adopted the minimum regulations at the time DEP made changes. **J. Murray will work on a white paper of recommended best practices to possibly introduce further restrictions to update the Stormwater ordinance.** T. Cole suggested that once it is reviewed with Planning and Zoning, getting the points on paper to Council would be the next step.

E. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

R. Wyndrum spoke to Business Administrator Casagrande on this topic. It is on Council's agenda, but unsure which direction they will take. R. Wyndrum recommended hydroraking and hopes Council will approve funding for it. The consulting work has already been paid for and completed. T. Cole asked if the Council moves forward with the project, what is the ongoing maintenance expense and the long-term results. B. Rice said it is purely a depth issue. K. Flanagan believes educating nearby homeowners about the run-off implications in the area would be helpful.

F. No Smoking in Public Areas of Fair Haven (Ralph)

R. Wyndrum believes smoking should be banned on all public property. A Smoke Free community would earn Sustainable Jersey points. **R. Wyndrum to look further into it.**

G. Rain Gardens (Jessie)

Father Jim is on board with the rain garden project. R. Wyndrum sent an email to the County regarding ROW implications; **G. Patterson to follow-up with the state.** J. Murray noted the gardens at Knollwood and municipal building also need to be revamped. She believes a combination of native species and pollinator plants would be most beneficial. B. Rice estimates the cost at \$2,500. **J. Murray will draft best practices to work with Council, Planning & Zoning on.** K. Flanagan believes **EC can incorporate this with Stormwater management.**

H. LED Streetlights (Ralph)

R. Wyndrum drafted a one-page notice of the successful completion of our LED streetlight trial. **EC members are to review and send any comments to R. Wyndrum prior to the next EC meeting March 9.**

I. Gas Leaf Blower Noise and Air Pollution in FH (Ralph/Kelly)

KFlanagan compared nearby town noise ordinances and Rumson is more specific with permitted times, versus "sunset". J. Murray in favor of distinct times. B. Olson conducted an informal poll and found not many residents agreeable with lawn maintenance equipment changes and noted labor costs may increase if time frames are shortened. B. Rice asked how the Borough would enforce a decibel level? R. Wyndrum noted the PD has a decibel reader and trained officer for this. K. Flanagan suggested creating an informational brochure. Mayor Halpern cautioned the EC to have realistic expectations on this issue. **R. Wyndrum to follow-up on details.**

7. New Business

A. Invasive Species (Jessie)

There will be an invasive species presentation with the Natural area Commission; **J. Murray to follow-up with content.**

B. Mosquito Spraying (Cole)

T. Cole had extensive conversations with the County Mosquito Control Division regarding their process for Fair Haven. She was impressed with their safe and effective treatment using soil based larvicide, a natural substance,

versus aerial spraying. B. Olson suggested mosquito magnets are also effective. The EC is in favor of continuing the current Borough practices.

8. Council Update (Cole)

None.

9. 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. Once a topic has been addressed by a member of the public, he/she will not be recognized to talk again until all others have been heard a first time. Commission members will await the public member's comments and Chair's recognition before responding.*

Bonnie Torcivia thanked Councilwoman Cole for the mosquito research. She wondered why residents are still spraying their own properties if the County is already spraying 36 sites in Fair Haven. She asked what the end game is for McCarter Pond and hopes the EC and Council can come to favorable terms.

Stephanie Adams asked if the EC can fundraise publicly or privately to cleanup McCarter Pond? B. Rice said there have been efforts in the passed, but nothing came to fruition. **T. Cole will explore historical context of pond issues.**

Mayor Halpern discussed the new Communications platforms the Council/Borough is exploring to get information and educational materials out to residents in a timely/efficient manner.

10. Adjournment @ 9:45pm

Next Meeting: March 9, 2022 @ 7:30pm