

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2022 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order@ 7:32pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, K. Larsen
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson (Zoom), Gary Patterson, Brian Rice, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Liaison Krystie Larsen
 - Absent: Jonathan Peters, Suzanne McCabe
5. Approval of March Meeting Minutes. All in favor
6. Current Business
 - A. Green Team: Sustainable Jersey (Kelly)
 - Love Where You Live Day, EC Table

The Sustainable Jersey application is due May 22 and the Green Team is making headway. On May 2 the GT is hosting a Composting Workshop at Bicentennial Hall. May 14 is Love Where You Live Day: a community-wide event to inspire and educate residents. GT is collecting bottle caps for a community mural. EC would like to have a table: R. Wyndrum, J. Murray and T. Cole will help staff the table with educational materials related to dog waste and Boro information such as Brush schedule. Block will be closed to promote walking/biking to event. Junior Green Team and others can volunteer to help at the event. M. DiMiceli asked if the EC would consider paying for event signage. R. Wyndrum was in favor of using \$500-700 of EC budget. K. Larsen reviewed the protocols for expenses with the Boro.

B. Navesink River (Brian)

DEP presentation from last month's meeting is now posted on the FHEC website. Bass are in the water, which supports the positive data trend of cleaner water. B. Rice believes the 12-18 month shellfish harvest goal is in reach. The issue was raised to add garbage cans to the end of Hance Road near the river.

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

R. Wyndrum would like to table this agenda item until one full year has passed since incorporating the new DEP guidance. J. Murray will work on a white paper of recommended best practices to possibly introduce further restrictions to update the Stormwater ordinance. M. DiMiceli asked if Eco covers on River Road would be implemented, as stormwater drains entirely full and pooling during storms. B. Rice said the County should be cleaning sewers and sediment clogging on River Road since it is a Country Road. Some Commission members believe brush is causing the back-up and the Boro needs to pick-up more frequently. B. Rice noted some residents put it out when it is not their Zone, but if the Boro does not enforce and impose penalties for this, residents will keep doing it. T. Cole asked M. DiMiceli to forward pictures of the pooling water on River Road.

D. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

R. Wyndrum discussed McCarter Pond with Business Administrator Casagrande who advised him of a \$165,000 capital budget. Councilwoman Cole said there is a line item for McCarter Pond, but the budget is not yet voted on. In May, there will be a special Council Meeting discussion on capital project priorities and Commission members should attend. R. Wyndrum is adamant on pressing this issue to Council and also indicated a Federal Relief grant could be a possibility to help pay for it.

E. No Smoking in Public Areas of Fair Haven (Kelly)

The Commission is not in favor of pushing an ordinance for an entirely smoke-free town. B. Rice wondered how the Boro would enforce it and if it doesn't, then the ordinance is void regardless. K. Flanagan asked K. Larsen to forward the existing ordinance prohibiting smoking in public spaces and wondered if more signage would help.

F. Rain Gardens (Jessie)

- Potential ANJEC Grant

The Rain garden at Nativity Church is approved at the lowest point near the parking lot. G. Patterson showed a map to the Commission indicating a 15 foot ROW on the Ridge Road side and advised calling 811 Dig for markings. B. Rice noted it is the third anniversary of the Knollwood rain gardens and the new Junior Green Team wants to get involved in updating it. B. Rice to connect with Superintendent McNeil and Advisor Barnett. R. Wyndrum is in favor of the EC budget paying for the plants. He referenced the Rutgers report that revealed 11 possible rain garden sites in Fair Haven. K. Flanagan and J. Murray offered to write the ANJEC grant to help cover rain garden plant costs.

G. LED Streetlights (Ralph)

New lights on Hance Road. The field trial has concluded, routine maintenance replacements going forward.

H. Invasive Species/Bamboo (Ralph, Jessie)

R. Wyndrum said there are several places in Fair Haven where bamboo is spreading and suggested an ordinance regarding bamboo: 10 foot boundary to adjacent properties or in a container. T. Cole noted it was discussed at the 4/11 Council meeting and there was consensus in favor of adopting an ordinance to ban certain invasive species. T. Cole noted she would carry EC's position to ban invasive species to Council.

7. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Councilwoman Cole urged Commission members to join R. Wyndrum presenting the FHEC Annual Report at the 4/25 Council meeting. She requested a map of rain gardens (existing and proposed) in Fair Haven; she believes it would be helpful to have for grants and public education, including the website. The proposed sites in the Rutgers report still need to have a drainage test. She suggested sending a thank you note to the Garden Club for cleaning out the rain garden at Boro Hall. She suggested using the FHEC Annual report for notes/handouts at Love Where You Live Day.

8. New Business

- ERI – the 2017 copy was circulated to the Commission. It should be the planning document to drive environmental decisions for the Borough. If it is adopted by the Governing Body, the EC has authority to review applicable site plans and applications. Councilwoman Cole does not think it is entirely out of date. J. Murray thinks 5-10 years is a good range where data points may not change, but the report is easy to amend; it should be a living document that can be revised at any time. B. Rice suggested adding WILLIAMS, ALBERT AND ROBARDS PARK. R. Wyndrum said the ERI is very inclusive and ANJEC is a good resource to compare other ERIs. He requested members to bring comments to the next meeting. Councilwoman Cole suggested an RFQ for a professional to write the ERI, the cost potentially coming out of 2023 EC budget.

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.*

Robbyn O'Neill spoke as the Co-chair of Love Where you Live Day and suggested Stormwater management be the primary focus at the EC table. Clean Ocean Action will also be on site at Bic Hall with related materials. B. Rice will work on a Best practices flyer for the table. Ms. O'Neill is hoping to pose a challenge to residents to be more sustainable. The Green Team will have a pop-up pollinator tent and can coordinate with stormwater/rain garden story. Councilwoman Cole suggested having a pollinator/rain garden at Bic Hall for Love Where You Live Day.

Bonnie Torcivia asked if the ERI will encompass the new pocket parks and whether the EC was consulted on them? B. Rice said Administrator Casagrande informed him the plans were already done. Councilwoman Cole said the plans were engineered, but not final. Ms. Torcivia hopes the EC would be consulted on environmental matters in town. M. DiMiceli asked if there were rebates or incentives for residents to aid in personal stormwater management? Ms. Torcivia asked if the hydroraking in McCarter Pond will disturb wildlife? B. Rice said they are not dredging, so no. The Commission agreed no further chemicals should be put in the Pond, in anticipation of it being moved to the Natural Area, post hydroraking. Councilwoman Cole suggested a memo to the Administrator and Natural Area Stakeholders regarding this.

10. Adjournment @ 9:40pm

Next Meeting: May 11, 2022 @ 7:30pm