

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2022 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:33pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice – K. Larsen
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - A. Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Brian Rice, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole
 - B. Absent: Suzanne McCabe, Jonathan Peters
5. Approval of February Meeting Minutes: All in favor of approval.
6. Current Business
 - A. ANJEC Membership Introduction (Amanda Brockwell, ANJEC Director of Development)

Ms. Brockwell thanked Fair Haven for its membership since 1997; dues help empower Environmental Commissions across the state with educational materials and support. There are many educational webinars and workshops EC members can take advantage of coming up on the ANJEC website. Modest grant opportunities available, due 5/2/22.

B. Navesink River Presentation (Bob Schuster, NJ DEP)

Mr. Shuster shared a 2021 Review of the health of the Navesink River. Annual collection data/assessments are based on the last 30 data points to address restricted, prohibited and approved classifications for shellfish growing. There is a balance of regulation and keeping the industry gainful. T. Cole asked how Fair Haven can help improve the health of the river? Provide education materials related to fertilizers/pesticides, animal waste to residents. B. Torcivia asked if he predicted fishkill this year? Data is TBD; if concerned/see something call DEP hotline. K. Flanagan asked if Fair Haven should change their ordinances to help the river i.e. stormwater management? Perhaps employing other best practices like routine cleanup for catch basins or just maintaining what you have. T. Cole would like to summarize and distribute the presentation to Council.

C. Green Team ("GT"), Sustainable Jersey (Kelly)

K. Flanagan circulated the Sustainable Jersey action items and shared her screen to give a platform tutorial. R. Wyndrum asked EC members to select one item to cover; due by the next EC meeting 4/13. May 2 the GT is hosting a Composting Workshop at Bicentennial Hall. May 14 will be Love Where You Live Day: a community-wide event to inspire and educate residents. GT will earn Sustainable Jersey points for the event and other parts of the day. EC would like to have a table with educational materials related to pesticides, dog waste, plastic ban.

D. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

A report was given to Council one and a half years ago and nothing has been done. R. Wyndrum hopes Councilwoman Cole will advocate to Council on EC's behalf. T. Cole said the EC has the power and authority to create and index of open space and prioritize projects in a more comprehensive view. Deferred maintenance has turned into neglect. R. Wyndrum encouraged EC members to attend the Council meeting 3/14/22 and advocate for it. B. Rice asked the status of bids on this project? Unknown.

E. Rain Gardens (Jessie)

Intend to update the rain gardens at Knollwood and municipal building. R. Wyndrum assumes EC has enough budget for this project. J. Murray to create a list of plants, including pollinator plants, to purchase likely at Pinelands nursery. K. Flanagan said there is no update on rain gardens at Nativity Church, but GT is approved for a pollinator garden. G. Patterson noted there is an intersection improvement plan in the pipeline at Hance/Ridge, so checking on ROW project implications.

F. Invasive Species (Jessie)

Resident Sarah Moore created a report on the Natural Area and invasive species implications: problems with them, process to remove, what to replant, etc. English Ivy is also found on many Fair Haven properties. Priority of Natural Area Committee. What can EC do? Possibly the trail from Third Street to Fair Haven Fields. Would an ANJEC grant help with this project? A. Brockwell (ANJEC) suggested the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space program for this project: up to \$250,000 grant program (with municipal matching).

7. New Business

N/A

8. Council Update and the Role of EC (Councilwoman Cole)

T. Cole suggested creating a comprehensive index of projects/mapping to identify open spaces in Fair Haven and prioritize projects. What are open spaces, conditions, issues, maintenance and resources in Fair Haven. J. Murray suggested T. Cole read the Environmental Resource Inventory she wrote last in 2017.

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.*

B. Torcivia asked about the Harding Bird Sanctuary – it is a target for invasives: who maintains it? Possibly the Garden Club of FH – needs attention. The Natural Area hoping to start invasive project near the cell tower in Fair Haven Fields.

A. Brockwell spoke about the open space grant: T. Casagrande familiar with grant program, Fair Haven was awarded the grant in September for the private residence purchase on the Navesink River.

10. Adjournment @ 9:31pm

Next Meeting: April 13, 2022 @ 7:30pm