

## FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2022 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

1. Call to Order @7:35pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, B. Rice
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
  - Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan (virtual), Jessie Murray, Gary Patterson, Brian Rice, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Liaison Krystie Larsen
  - Absent: Suzanne McCabe, Jonathan Peters, Brian Olson, Ralph Wyndrum (arrived 8:43pm)
5. Approval of April Meeting Minutes: All in favor.
6. Current Business

### A. Navesink River (Brian)

Resident concerns of scum lines and discoloration were raised with B. Rice, but he said it was normal with the abundance of rainfall. Typically there is bunker at this time, but all the freshwater has kept it at bay for now. No new updated data, but B. Rice believes the river is very clean and healthy.

### B. ERI (Jessie)

J. Murray believes there are some sections to update particularly #6 – Existing and Planned Infrastructure, including rain gardens, utility park, recycling, recreational areas and pocket parks. J. Murray will circulate the existing ERI to the FHEC; it would be helpful if each member can take a section to update. Councilwoman Cole suggested adding a section for invasives. She asked if there was a barometer in each section to establish a level of concern/urgency? Documenting this information is a useful exercise/tool so Fair Haven is poised to take action, if necessary, and should include all areas of town.

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

FHEC will wait one year from when the ordinance was enacted to revisit. J. Murray is drafting a white paper of best practices for Planning and Zoning Boards.

### D. Green Team: Sustainable Jersey (Kelly)

- Love Where You Live Day (“LWYLD”), EC Table

The Compost Workshop May 2 was a great success, press release will be coming out soon. The company that presented, UnWaste, will be at LWYLD. Previously, mulch piles were available for residents to use near the Community Gardens. Members were in favor of composting barrels in this area for residents. Potentially a grant would be available to purchase the barrels, but there would still need to be a caretaker. K. Flanagan will speak to the Garden Club about this. B. Rice volunteered to follow-up with Duncan.

M. DiMiceli gave an update on LWYLD: rain or shine, please bring tents. EC is staffed with volunteers and K. Larsen will create print-outs for the table and R. Wyndrum will bring lobster traps for décor. Councilwoman Cole said she will have a Communications and Outreach table at LWYLD and hoped the Green Team would get more points on the Sustainable Jersey application for this.

E. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

B. Rice asked members to show their support for hydroraking the Pond at the special Council meeting May 23 at 5pm. Councilwoman Cole asked K. Larsen to send last month's FHEC meeting minutes to the Governing Body and Administrator that indicates the FHEC is against putting any chemicals in the Pond, ahead of the anticipated hydroraking.

F. Rain Gardens (Jessie)

- Nativity Church photos

There is a rain garden on site. B. Rice will have his son clean out the pipe because the vegetation is not in the right spots. The alternative is to leave as is now where it acts as a natural filter. The consensus was to spruce up the existing conveyance with plantings along the sides of the concrete as it already drains the parking lot. There is no need to install additional rain gardens at this location/at this time, but plantings will help slow flow. The Green Team has been working with the Junior Green Team at Knollwood on rain gardens. K. Flanagan and J. Murray submitted the ANJEC grant application. If granted, signage and planting supplies will be purchased. J. Murray suggested waiting to plant until fall to avoid watering concerns in the hot summer months.

G. Invasive Species/Bamboo (Ralph, Jessie)

The draft ordinance is on the May 23 Council meeting Agenda. K. Larsen will forward the draft to FHEC.

7. New Business

- StormX Netting Trash Trap, Storm Water Systems. FHEC may endorse a pilot project at the foot of Fair Haven Road to install a StormX trash trap over the end of the storm water outflow pipe.

B. Rice met with Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky to discuss a proposal of this concept at the foot of Fair Haven Road. The purpose is to catch debris at the end of the storm/outfall pipe at the dock from entering the river. A drawback would be maintenance to empty it. Councilwoman Cole asked how it stays attached? B. Rice replied that bands are used. G. Patterson asked how large the holes are? FHEC is in favor of learning more about this project. There are stormwater outflows at DeNormandie, Fair Haven Road, Hance and Grange. Councilwoman Cole cited an example in Oregon where clean woodchips are used in netting surrounding drains. B. Rice said there are safety issues in that example with pedestrians/cyclists and snow removal. K. Larsen to assist B. Rice with a policy position on this project.

- Anti-idling campaign

K. Larsen gave an update that R. Wyndrum wrote a letter to Superintendent McNeil regarding this issue at the schools and that an awareness campaign was suggested. Also, the Junior Green Team highlighted this issue on the "Knighly News".

- Living Shoreline at Park on Denormandie

J. Murray believes there is spot for a rain garden at DeNormandie Park. Is the FHEC interested in this project? A living shoreline is beneficial versus a bulkhead to protect the shoreline. J. Murray believes a combination of a rain garden at the end of the street to help filter run off plus living shoreline would be best – design shouldn't be over-engineered. Existing

plans should be tweaked to minimize erosion. B. Rice said the FHEC should be consulted on plans from an environmental perspective in town, but hasn't been thus far. Councilwoman Cole asked FHEC to create a specific recommendation for this project; B. Rice and J. Murray to work on it. J. Murray noted that since the FHEC has an ERI, FHEC should be engaged and the ERI triggers its jurisdiction for environmentally related items. Land Use Boards are not bound to FHEC judgement, but would hopefully welcome feedback. DEP letters addressed to the Chairman should be circulated to the entire Commission.

#### 8. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Councilwoman Cole believes a letter should be written to Council on behalf of FHEC regarding McCarter Pond and a position paper on Living Shorelines and proposal for StormX Netting, once determined. She reminded the FHEC that Council will be presented with a host of programs the Borough's budget should be allocated to. She encouraged FHEC members to attend the Special Meeting on May 23 to advocate for McCarter Pond funding

#### 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.*

Robyn O'Neil, River Road, of the Green Team expressed her enthusiasm for Love Where You Live Day and the FHEC's involvement. She attended the Garden Club Federation Annual Meeting and a speaker mentioned the living shoreline on DeNormandie. She attended a Littoral Society event where Bob Sickles spoke about native trees and there is an organization called Strike which targets invasives. She believes rain gardens are very popular and FHEC should work with the children on them. She supports the communal composting program idea and believes it should be offered to restaurants also. She warned of EcoShield dock cleaners – a solicitor approached her and she does not believe it is legitimate.

Stephanie Adams, Oxford Avenue, spoke about the projects at Knollwood: FHEC is working with the Junior Green Team on the rain gardens and Green Team will work on a modern waste station with Knollwood. She clarified there is one rain garden and one pollinator that has been started at Nativity Church. R. Wyndrum commented the Nativity right of way is 16 feet from the curb, so can't dig down and there is a possibility of a new lane on Ridge Road. She asked if FHEC should garner more public support for McCarter Pond? B. Rice responded it is on Council's agenda.

Adjournment at 9:11pm



**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)).**

**THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD IN-PERSON AND THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM, BEING BROADCAST FROM BOROUGH HALL, 748 RIVER ROAD, FAIR HAVEN, NJ. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS MAY 11, 2022 MEETING IS AVAILABLE BY CALL IN PHONE NUMBER OR THROUGH WEB CONFERENCE (ZOOM). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ON MUTE UNTIL IT IS TIME FOR QUESTIONS/COMMENTS, WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED. AT THAT TIME, THE PUBLIC HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE "RAISE HAND" BUTTON AND WILL BE CALLED ON AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.**

**NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS, THE TWO RIVER TIMES AND THE STAR LEDGER ON JANUARY 28, 2022, 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.**