

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“EC”) MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON at Borough Hall 748 River Road and Zoom)

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

Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan, Suzanne McCabe, Jessie Murray, Brian Olson, Jonathan Peters, Brian Rice, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole

Absent: Gary Patterson

5. Approval of May Meeting Minutes. All in favor.
6. Current Business

A. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

EC is pleased the Borough Council voted to fund the hydroraking. The funds will not be bonded, so there is no interest and is a quicker funding mechanism. Next steps involve moving the funds, creating bid specs and going out to bid. The Borough will require an engineering firm to write the bid specs. B. Rice offered to look at the 2017 report and see if it needs updates. B. Rice believes there are two vendors that perform this service. The EC was in consensus to continually monitor this project, so lack of maintenance is not a recurring issue. It will look for feedback from the vendors on expected ongoing maintenance cost/scope. B. Rice will purchase one aerator for the Borough. Councilwoman Cole suggested looking into a Clean Communities grant to help fund a second. However, the aerators in the pond are new this year and can be removed and put back after the project. Clean Communities would not be a source for funding that type of equipment.

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

K. Flanagan gave an update that she is awaiting the Boro logo for the sticker/magnet project. R. Wyndrum suggested doing it without the logo. He congratulated the GT on completing their Sustainable Jersey application. K. Flanagan said Fair Haven earned 280 points in the first round and is hoping to get to Silver status (350 points) by the August submission. She noted that Fair Haven is already doing many of the action items in the application, they just need to document it.

Love Where You Live Day was a big success. One vendor is donating a portion of their proceeds to Bicentennial Hall restoration. The bottle cap mural created was displayed at Rumson Eco Fest and is now at Boro Hall.

Chairman Wyndrum encouraged EC and GT members to attend the Sustainability Conference on 6/24 at Bell Works and said the EC budget would pay for attendance. Interested participants should email K. Larsen.

C. Navesink River (Brian)

B. Rice believes an upgrade in the water quality for shellfish harvest in the Navesink is approaching. The area between Lewis Point and the Oceanic Bridge has two stations below the geometric mean, but are on track to improve and upgrade. Red Bank is improving infrastructure along the riverfront and there were complaints of pet fecal waste being in the water. B. Rice believes the improvement is due to the great collaboration of the riverfront towns and DEP.

D. ERI (Jessie)

K. Larsen will re-send the ERI to the Commission. J. Murray asked Commission members to volunteer for a section to update. She would like to add invasive species, stormwater, rain and pollinator gardens, new ordinances and waterfront park material. J. Peters noted the inventory hasn't changed. Councilwoman Cole would like the EC to use this document as a catalog to prepare action items and suggested exploring the potential of having a professional author the report. J. Murray to work on an outline for the Commission.

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

It has been over one year since the Stormwater ordinance was adopted, so B. Rice will discuss it with Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky. R. Wyndrum believes the EC should have a philosophy on stormwater. Fair Haven is part of the county storm drain system; he wondered if it connects with Red Bank? He requested K. Larsen to send him a map of the stormwater system. The State has testing data. Where there is an issue, they go upstream to test and find it. If there is no issue at the outflow, they don't test. K. Flanagan suggested creating a Municipal Water Story to go along with this, as it is worth 35 points for Sustainable Jersey.

F. Rain Gardens (Jessie)

Fair Haven did not receive the ANJEC grant it applied for. J. Murray believes ANJEC was focused on open space projects. R. Wyndrum asked K. Larsen to see if there is any money left from the previous ANJEC grant FH received in 2017/18. B. Rice met with staff at Knollwood to discuss updating their rain gardens in the fall. R. Wyndrum met with Father Jim and Kathy Hendricks at Nativity Church to discuss cleaning the existing drains with church volunteers. B. Rice noted at the last meeting, the Commission agreed to leave it and it will naturally act as a filter. K. Flanagan will follow-up with Kathy on next steps.

G. Invasive Species/Bamboo (Ralph, Jessie)

Councilwoman Cole updated the Commission that the Bamboo ordinance is being reviewed by Council. She also explained resident Zoe Archanic's Eagle Scout project of planting new trees in the area between Third Street and FH Fields to help combat invasive species. A coalition is being created with members from Shade Tree, Natural Area, Recreation and Environmental to form a strategy and action plan for invasives on municipal property. Michal DiMiceli volunteered to be the FHEC representative. Councilwoman Cole noted that the Governing Body has pledged funds to help combat invasives in town.

H. StormX Netting System (Brian)

The Commission reviewed the StormX specifications; funding is needed for this pilot project. The quote is \$4,200 plus installation and maintenance. Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky affirmed that DPW could handle the maintenance: removing the net and putting the debris collected in the garbage truck when it collects the cans from the dock. B. Rice said his crew could install it and will monitor the net to gauge capacity. K. Flanagan warned smaller organic items will still get through the net holes, but this net at the outflow pipe will trap larger items from getting into the River. She thought the visual of this net collection could be a great educational outreach tool for the community. R. Wyndrum believes the Commission should list measured outcomes it hopes to monitor with the pilot program such as: toxicity, weight, volume and categorization of solids. J. Peters to send GIS maps to EC. Councilwoman Cole and B. Rice will draft a narrative from the EC.

I. Anti-idling campaign (Ralph, Kelly)

Knollwood Green Team and Board of Education are taking steps to educate residents on the issue. EC believes September is a good time to launch an awareness campaign when students return to school. Three minutes of idling is permitted as a State Law. Fair Haven would earn 10 Sustainable Jersey points for passing an Anti-Idling resolution. B. Rice said there should be an enforcement plan. Timeline consensus is September/October awareness period, then installation of signs in high traffic areas/schools. The Mayor suggested raising awareness of the financial cost spent idling also. Councilwoman Cole will discuss this topic with the Communications and Outreach team.

J. Living Shoreline at Park on Denormandie (Jessie)

J. Murray and B. Rice will develop the EC position on this issue. B. Rice to follow-up with the Littoral Society on the status, as he believes they are awaiting plans from Engineer Gardella.

7. New Business

B. Rice circulated a pamphlet from Barnegat Bay Partnership detailing natives, non-natives and invasives. K. Larsen will scan a copy to the Commission.

8. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

There is a possibility of a summer film series in town with films to raise awareness on conservation and other topics. Would EC be willing to contribute funds for a projector, screen and speaker for the event? R. Wyndrum asked K. Larsen to give a budget update at the next meeting, then the EC will consider their involvement.

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.*

Bonnie Torcivia described Fair Haven as an environmental wonderland, but needs to be maintained. The walking path from Third Street to FH Fields is covered with invasives and needs attention; she urged EC to get involved in caring for this area. R. Wyndrum noted the entrance to Fair Haven at Schwenker's is also in need of clean up. B. Rice asked if this maintenance is all under DPW's umbrella? Deferred maintenance becomes a real issue then professionals need to be involved. Councilwoman Cole said the Governing Body needs an EC directive to tend to areas of concern, another reason why an updated ERI is important. M. DiMiceli suggested the EC create a list of priority projects for the Borough.

Stephanie Adams supports the idea of a summer film series with Environmental topics and recommends the movie "Kiss the Ground". She asked about the status of recycling bins on River Road? She believes the EC should advocate for them near the high traffic areas on River Road. B. Rice wondered why they aren't there already and suggested adding the blue cans now and get the decorative Urbanscape receptacles later. Ms. Rapp mentioned she had a contact at the company who did the refillable water stations, if the EC needed one. R. Wyndrum will speak to Administrator Casagrande on this.

10. Adjournment @ 9:54pm

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

FHEC voted to remove the August 10, 2022 meeting from the calendar and have an August recess.