

FAIR HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (“FHEC”) MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 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, K. Larsen
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:
 - Present: Michal DiMiceli, Kelly Flanagan, Brian Olson, Gary Patterson, Jonathan Peters, Ralph Wyndrum, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen
 - Absent: Suzanne McCabe, Jessie Murray, Brian Rice
5. Approval of June Meeting Minutes: All in favor.
6. Current Business
 - A. Green Team, Sustainable Jersey (Kelly)

Fair Haven was approved for 160 points, Bronze status, on its Sustainable Jersey application. The Green Team can resubmit updated/additional points by August 28. A film regarding soil health will be shown August 11 or 18 at Bicentennial Hall. It will raise awareness of Bic Hall, the Green Team and also serve as a fundraising opportunity. The Green Team will advertise locally.

B. McCarter Pond (Ralph/Brian)

Borough Council allocated funds for the hydroraking. The funds will not be bonded, so there is no interest and is a quicker funding mechanism. M. DiMiceli asked what occurs in the interim? There will be no maintenance of the Pond in the short-term. The EC was in consensus to continually monitor this project, so lack of maintenance is not a recurring issue. Next steps involve identifying the scope of project specifications to bid out, then authorizing it. Councilwoman Cole believes CME will prepare the bid, as the Borough's Consulting Engineer, and Nigerian will be involved, possibly updating the last set of documents.

C. Navesink River (Brian)

Absent.

D. StormX Netting System (Brian)

R. Wyndrum and B. Rice met with Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky at Fair Haven Dock to evaluate the project. The StormX netting will be placed at the end of the 18 inch outflow pipe, off the Fair Haven Dock. DPW will maintain the system; depending on how much debris the bag collects, a pulley system may need to be created to lift/empty the bag. The next Fair Haven outflow pipe is three feet in diameter. Administrator Casagrande is looking for a grant to fund this field trial.

E. Residential Stormwater Ordinance (Brian/Jessie)

Absent.

F. Living Shoreline at Park on DeNormandie (Jessie)

R. Wyndrum noted there is a lot of work to be done to minimize erosion of the shoreline. Increased summer boat traffic and storms accelerate this problem. A living shoreline is recommended at the property on DeNormandie; the cost is \$90,000, including \$30,000 for the sand, to get it started. R. Wyndrum spoke with Administrator Casagrande, and based on the conversation, he doesn't believe there is money in the budget for this project. He referenced a memo from the Littoral Society with data/trials on how to retain sand, but there is no foolproof way. B. Olson asked if the sand cost is recurring and if so, how often? R. Wyndrum responded time will tell, but historically, the Jersey Shore constantly needs replenishment. Councilwoman Cole noted there is a difference between dredging and supplementing sand. There are three components to help mitigate erosion and runoff:

- A living shoreline is a habitat to support a natural ecosystem versus a bulkhead. Sand is graded to a gentler slope, so tidal river doesn't dissipate the land.
- Stormwater management down DeNormandie, to help slow the flow of water. R. Wyndrum believes storm sewers should be installed in this part of town.
- Creating a large rain garden.

**John Peters joined 8:20pm*

K. Flanagan also suggested cluster shells as another tool. B. Olson asked if sand was the appropriate material, vs. something more impervious like rock? R. Wyndrum noted he used a gradual slope of rocks on his property. Councilwoman Cole said the Borough has no definite course of action yet. The Park was purchased in 2017, then the Yachtworks situation delayed progress. \$21,000 is currently seeded for this project. Stevens Institute and Littoral Society analysis is very helpful to determine the course of action. A DEP application would be needed for this project and the Littoral Society would assist. Councilwoman Cole said if nothing is done, the park may wash into the river; is this a project the Environmental Commission would like to take on? R. Wyndrum would like the Commission to recommend a set of actions for this project. He believes working in conjunction with Rutgers and Stevens Institute to define the problem, options, assessment and cost, including maintenance costs. Councilwoman Cole believes the current report from Stevens Institute is not out of date for analysis. Should the Boro invest in professionals to conduct drawings for this project? This could be a possible model project for the DEP to help raise awareness for living shorelines. D. Micheli asked how fast the erosion occurs? R. Wyndrum estimated 6-12 inches a year. B. Olson suggested the Borough should figure this out before purchasing more waterfront property. Is there a way to prevent erosion more permanently? He would like to formulate a goal statement: to save the park from erosion and address stormwater management issues. Councilwoman Cole suggested inviting Littoral Society to the September meeting to discuss and educate the Commission and help develop a recommendation. B. Olson said Yachtworks should also be invited, as a neighbor. R. Wyndrum asked Commission members to send questions regarding this to K. Larsen prior to the meeting, so he can preliminarily discuss these with the speakers to frame the discussion. Councilwoman Cole suggested Commission members look at pocket park plans prior to the next meeting and would circulate them. J. Peters noted the end of Grange has a vertical bulkhead that is in need of repair and the Boro received funding to work on it. End of Hance is a public access point and shoreline needs to be evaluated. M. DiMicelli asked how the Borough prioritizes these issues for maintenance and investment?

G. ERI (Jessie)

Absent.

H. Rain Gardens (Jessie)

Absent.

I. Invasive Species/Bamboo (Ralph, Jessie)

The Invasive Species Ordinance passed. There is language under McCarter Pond, that if there is any money leftover of the \$200,000, Council pledged support on invasive species.

J. Anti-idling campaign (Ralph, Kelly)

Administrator Casagrande will speak to Superintendent McNeil when school resumes. Fair Haven already has an anti-idling ordinance. The Commission believes it should be enforced, but must educate the public first. K. Flanagan will send a picture of a sign in Little Silver high traffic school areas.

K. EC Budget: Develop next year's project expenditures and grant planning (All)

K.Larsen reviewed FHEC budget and expenditures to date. There is a remaining balance of \$2,198. The consensus is to allocate the funds to Knollwood rain gardens: materials and signage. K. Larsen to follow-up with B. Rice and J. Murray for a quote on materials to initiate the financing process with the Borough. R. Wyndrum requested Commission members to submit 2023 EC budget items prior to the September meeting, since there is an August recess.

7. Council Update (Councilwoman Cole)

Councilwoman Cole is working to convene an Invasives Group to target work in the area between Third Street and Fair Haven Fields. M. DiMiceli volunteered to represent the EC; there are also members from the Shade Tree Commission and Natural Area working to solve the problem.

8. New Business

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.*

None.

10. Adjournment @ 9:08pm

Next Meeting: September 14, 2022 @ 7:30pm