



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2017

Opening

The regular meeting of the Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission was called to order via reading of the NJ Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:33 on January 19, 2017 at the Fanwood Community Center—2nd Floor Train Station by Gary Szelc, Chair.

Present

Gary Szelc; Eric Gaulin; Margaret Chowdhury, Sandy Redder, Teresa Keeler (Planning Board Liaison), Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison).

Absent

Phyllis Sandrock; Carol Walczuk

Approval of Previous Minutes

No discussion.

Open Issues

1. Kathy Mitchell initiated a general discussion regarding the Environmental Commission, its responsibilities, and general structure. It was noted that while Borough code mandates the formation of the Environmental Commission, there were no specific bylaws which governed its operation. It was agreed that throughout 2017, bylaws would be developed.
2. Kathy Mitchell further noted that the Environmental Commission needed to provide an annual report and regular meeting minutes, and regularly report on the condition of the Fanwood Nature Center.
3. The group agreed to a change in leadership for the Commission. Eric Gaulin was nominated as the Chair. Gary Szelc was nominated as the Vice Chair. All present voted in favor of both nominations.
4. Nature Center replanting plan progress was discussed in brief. College student Keenan Porter, had begun preparing a replanting plan for restoration of the Nature Center during the summer of 2016 as part of his coursework at SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry. There has been no recent news of his progress.
5. Use of goats to eat invasive species at the Nature Center was discussed in brief. The goats were anticipated to return in 2017, which would be the third year that the goats would be employed to eat invasive species in the Nature Center. The goat fencing was still in place in the Nature Center. The electricity is currently

- disconnected. Contact needs to be made with Ann and Larry the goat herders to communicate a general plan and schedule to them. It was anticipated that the goats would be allowed to graze in the entire Nature Center this year.
6. Boy Scout Butterfly Garden at Borough Hall. A decision needed to be made regarding placement of the signage. It was decided that placement of the sign was outside the charge of the Environmental Commission and better left to the Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern.
 7. Girl Scout Sign Project in the Nature Center. No news from the scout (Julia Guarneri) at this time.
 8. Environmental Education Center at Borough Hall. No discussion at this time. The most recent discussion (Summer of 2016), it appeared that a rack holding brochures would be the quickest way to provide information, or via the website.
 9. Fanwood Environmental Commission T-Shirts. This topic was visited again. T-shirts to be potentially made in time for Earth Day cleanup.
 10. Update to the 2007 Borough of Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory is in editing by Gary Szelc.

New Business

1. Nature Center Caretaker roles and responsibilities were discussed. The current caretaker, Dean Talcott has not presented a recent report as to the condition of the Nature Center. Kathy Mitchell presented a written description of the roles and responsibilities as issued in 1995. Many of the responsibilities may be out of date. Additional discussion centered around the desire of the current caretaker to continue in the job, which is a paid position.
2. Grant opportunities were discussed. Opportunities such as the College of NJ volunteer grant and Green Acres grant opportunities were discussed.
3. Communications about and from the Environmental Commission were discussed. Neither the Borough Fanwood Environmental Commission website, nor the dedicated Fanwood Commission website have been updated in sometime. Eric Gaulin noted that the Borough of Fanwood website did not list the date and time of the Environmental Commission Meeting.
4. Renewal of Membership in the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). Membership fees are due.
5. 2017 Fanwood Environmental Commission Budget. The budget was due to Eleanor McGovern in early January.

Review of Plans

1. Block 71, Lot 17 – 8 Rainier Road; variance sought for % coverage. No comments from the Environmental Commission

Action Items

1. Seek examples of Environmental Commission Bylaws from ANJEC and other sources – Gary / Eric
2. Provide the 2016 Annual Report – Gary
3. Provide regular meeting minutes in 2017 – Eric
4. Reach out to Keenan Porter and determine the progress made on the Nature Center replanting plan – Margaret
5. Reach out to Ann and Larry, the farmers who provided the herd of goats in for the Nature Center in 2015 and 2016 – Gary / Phyllis
6. Follow up on the Girl Scout Project occurring in the Nature Center – Gary / Margaret
7. Price out Environmental Commission T-Shirts – Sandy
8. Finish editing and finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary
9. Distribute the section of Borough of Fanwood Code and the written description of the Nature Center Caretaker's roles / responsibilities – Kathy
10. Submit the 2017 Environmental Commission budget request to Eleanor McGovern – Eric
11. Submit for payment the 2017 membership dues for ANJEC – Eric
12. Get an update regarding current activities / status of the Nature Center from the current caretaker – Dean Talcott
13. Look into getting the Environmental Commission page on the Borough of Fanwood website updated – Eric
14. Look into getting the separate Environmental Commission website updated – Eric
15. Seek new members – All

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by Eric Gaulin, Chair. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on February 16, 2017, in Fanwood Community Center—2nd Floor Train Station.

Minutes submitted by: Eric Gaulin