



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Minutes
September 21, 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 7:30 on September 21, 2017 at the Fanwood Community Center—2nd Floor Train Station by Eric Gaulin, Chair.

Members Present

Eric Gaulin, Phyllis Sandrock, Carol Walczuk, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison), Teresa Keeler (Planning Board Liaison), Gary Szalc, Margaret Chowdhury, Sandy Redder

Members Absent

Dave Schwartzberg

Member Update

Victoria Gal resigned effective 9/14/2017

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the August 20, 2017 meeting approved without comment.

Nature Center Report

1. Caretaker Report

- a. Goat fencing – this still has not been removed. Eric will call again and indicate that the Borough will proceed with hiring another contractor if this is not resolved.
- b. Vandalism repairs Bird blind – Phyllis still awaiting fence parts from Dean Talcott.
- c. Dead trees
 - i. One to be removed by Shade Tree's contractor. This was to be completed in September
- d. Set up a test plot within the Nature Center to study various methods to eradicate Japanese Knot Weed – Phyllis indicates a small area has been set up. She will report progress going forward. The general discussion is that given the size of the areas of knotweed, the labor and materials involved to implement will be significant.

- e. Weed wacking for knotweed on paths and such – a battery powered electric weed whacker has been purchased for use in the Nature Center to maintain paths and other areas. Phyllis has not implemented use yet.
- 2. Other Items
 - a. Justin Chaillet Troop 33 Eagle Scout project – no progress reported. Eric indicates that this Scout has to revise his proposal again and get the necessary signatures.
 - b. Volunteers in November – no discussion.
- 3. Nature Center Maintenance Plan / Replanting – no discussion.

Old Business

- 1. PMUA Environmental Fair – September 9, 2017 (Eric, Kathy, Margaret) – educational materials were handed out for approximately 3 hours.
- 2. Fanny Wood Day – September 17, 2017 (attended by Eric, Gary, Sandy, Carol, Phyllis, Margaret)
 - a. general discussion – the schedule worked well, with defined start and stop times for people; we had a new business card to hand out to the public with our contact info
 - b. The old butterfly garden poster board was something which drew people in to the table; Eric suggested that we make a new presentation board showing general work that the Fanwood Environmental Commission does.
 - c. General discussion about tables / chairs and the like; consider bringing a tent or purchasing a tent in 2018.
- 3. Union County Community Garden Grant
 - a. Sign has been installed, indicating that the garden received grant money.
 - b. Remaining budget \$6.97; Sandy will purchase some plant markers with the remaining funds
 - c. Garden Tour 9/30 – the event is set for 10:00 AM
- 4. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary still reviewing
- 5. Distribute the 2016 Annual Report – Eric to complete the distribution.
- 6. Grant Opportunities
 - a. Home Depot – no discussion.
 - b. Green Acres
 - i. Mayor Mahr indicates that a grant amendment needs to be completed; FEC needs a short list of projects; the group discussed devices for capture of trash in the stream, stabilizing the stream bank, building the exclosures, relocating or working on the classroom area among other ideas.
- 7. Edible plant walk 9/16/17 – approximately 12 people attended; some discussion included possible purchase of a loud speaker

8. Develop a mission statement and goals for the Nature Center – Margaret / Carol – No discussion.
9. Develop of bylaws for the Environmental Commission – Sandy / Teresa – No discussion.
10. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC – Dave – no discussion

New Business

1. Website redirect – much of our printed materials, the banner, etc still show the old website; Eric reached out to Moenika Chowdhury to see if she could have a redirect put into place to the Environmental Commission page on the Borough's website
2. New members – the Commission discussed the possibility of adding two members; Eric had received correspondence from one resident (who did not respond, when asked for some qualifications); Eric also has the name of another resident recommended by Eleanor, who Eric will have to call. Teresa indicated that she knew someone who might be interested as well.
3. The Environmental Commission should send a thank you note to Debbie Naha for her edible plant walk.

Review of Plans

1. 1 South Avenue, Block 55, Lot 1 – Sprint Spectrum, applying for extension of time for use of a temporary cell tower – No comments by the Environmental Commission.
2. 117 Pleasant Avenue, Block 18, Lot 13 – Bulk variance, various pre-existing conditions – this project appears to have been built already – The Environmental Commission noted that significant impervious cover was proposed and that the anticipated significant runoff should be mitigated to maximize onsite storm water retention and infiltration.

Action Items

1. Call goat farmers to facilitate removal of fence – Eric
2. Complete bird blind repairs – Phyllis
3. Report on knotweed removal pilot test – Phyllis / Margaret
4. Report on weed whacker progress / tree removal – Phyllis
5. Report on coordination with volunteers - Phyllis
6. Report on progress with Boy Scouts – Eric
7. Report on Garden Tour – 9/30/17
8. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary
9. Work on Home Depot Grant – Phyllis / Eric
10. Provide a list of projects for the Green Acres revision – Eric

11. Develop a mission statement and goals for the Nature Center – Margaret / Carol
12. Develop of bylaws for the Environmental Commission – Sandy / Teresa
13. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC – Dave – no discussion
14. Find additional members

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Attachments

Date	Vendor	Amount	Note
4/26/2017	Union County Grant	\$ 650.00	Check issued to Teresa Keeler, brought check to Trisha Celardo at Borough Hall on 4/28/17
6/1/2017	Bartells, Clark, NJ	\$ (118.05)	1 yard mushroom soil and 9 bags of cedar mulch
6/2/2017	Home Depot, Watchung, NJ	\$ (85.82)	Rake, shovel, soil fork, two pruners, small trowel
6/12/2017	Home Depot, Watchung, NJ	\$ (50.42)	100 foot hose, sprayer, shut off valve
6/12/2017	Home Depot, Watchung, NJ	\$ (24.94)	50 foot hose
6/2/2017	Amberg Gardens, Clark NJ	\$ (279.00)	Plants from Amberg
7/25/2017	Amberg Gardens, Clark NJ	\$ (26.00)	Receipt for Liquid fence and deer out
9/1/2017	EasyToGrowBulbs.com	\$ (58.80)	Receipt for Native Plant Bulbs
	Balance	\$ 6.97	

Date	Vendor	Amount	Category	Account	Submitted	Note
1/1/2017	Requested 2017 Budget	\$ 625.00	Dues, Registration	7-01-27-335-000-812	Y	Requested Funds for 2017
1/1/2017	Requested 2017 Budget	\$ 705.00	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	Y	Requested Funds for 2017
1/1/2017	Requested 2017 Budget	\$ 837.00	Miscellaneous Expense	7-01-27-335-000-815	Y	Requested Funds for 2017
2/2/2017	Westlake School	\$ (78.00)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	<u>N</u>	<u>Printing of T-Shirts - asked Sandy to submit on 9/20/17</u>
2/8/2017	ANJEC Annual Dues	\$ (435.00)	Dues, Registration	7-01-27-335-000-812	Y	
5/24/2017	Home Depot	\$ (19.02)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	Y	Water Buckets for Goats, Reimbursement to Eric Gaulin
5/27/2017	Amazon.Com	\$ (12.94)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	Y	Electrical Hazard Signs, Reimbursment to Eric Gaulin
6/6/2017	T-Shirt Purchase	\$ (49.95)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	Y	Reimbursement to Sandy Redder
7/28/2017	Amazon.Com	\$ (31.96)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	Y	Video Surveillance Signs for Nature Center, Reimbursement to Eric Gaulin
8/16/2017	Home Depot	\$ (51.18)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	Y	Purchase of loppers, paint, safety vest, flagging for Nature Center work
8/31/2017	Moenika Chowdhury	\$ (300.00)	Miscellaneous Expense	7-01-27-335-000-815	<u>N</u>	<u>Assistance with the Environmental Resource Inventory</u>
9/8/2017	Staples	\$ (14.96)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	<u>N</u>	<u>Staples Copies, flyers for PMUA fair and Fanny Wood Day</u>
9/13/2017	Staples	\$ (16.02)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	<u>N</u>	<u>Staples Business Cards with Environmental Commission Contact Info</u>
9/16/2017	Home Depot	\$ (169.98)	Miscellaneous Expense	7-01-27-335-000-815	<u>N</u>	<u>Weed Whacker</u>
9/16/2017	Staples	\$ (32.48)	General Maintenance Supplies	7-01-27-335-000-427	<u>N</u>	<u>Rolling Cart, Business Card Holder</u>

2017 Requested Budget \$ 2,415.00

2017 Awarded Budget \$ 2,167.00

Current Remaining Funds \$ 955.51