



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
August 20, 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 August 20, 2017 at the Fanwood Community Center—2nd Floor Train Station by Eric Gaulin, Chair.

Members Present

Eric Gaulin, Sandy Redder, Phyllis Sandrock, Carol Walczuk, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison), Gary Szelc

Members Absent

Dave Schwartzberg, Margaret Chowdhury, Victoria Gal, Teresa Keeler (Planning Board Liaison)

Members of the Public Present

Keenan Porter, Student at SUNY ESF

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the July 20, 2017 meeting were approved.

Nature Center Report

1. Caretaker Report
 - a. Eric and Phyllis described the suspected incidents of drug use in the Nature Center on 7/27/17 and 8/1/17. The video surveillance signs went up and Phyllis will be monitoring. Next step would be to investigate installation of cameras in the Nature Center.
 - b. Goat fencing – removal is expected next week
 - c. Vandalism repairs
 - i. Bird blind – still waiting on fencing pieces.
 - d. Signage discussion
 - i. Drug Free Zones
 1. Refer to letter of 7/31/17 – letter was written to request it formerly be added to the Borough as a Drug Free Zone. Note – “Park Status” is required for this to be implemented.
 - ii. Rules (see attached)
 1. Reviewed and Approved by Commission
 2. Input Received from Police (stated rules were too long)

3. Reviewed and Approved by Zoning Officer (provided sign location stipulations)
4. Currently under review by Fanwood Borough Attorney
- e. Dead trees
 - i. One to be removed by Shade Tree's contractor, coming out of Shade Tree Commission Budget
2. Phyllis has set up a test plot within the Nature Center to study various methods to eradicate Japanese Knot Weed and is evaluating.
3. Kathy provided surveys from the Bible Chapel and PSE&G Right of Way (ROW) for Eric to review
4. Kathy reported that Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern contacted the Terrill Bible Chapel to have their landscaper cease dumping on the Nature Center. Eric noted that this problem has occurred since the early 1990's.
5. Other Items
 - a. Girl Scout Gold Star Project – Julia Guarneri. Phyllis reported that the case needs to be replaced as it is leaking. Potential costs are \$800-900.
 - b. Justin Chaillet Troop 33 Eagle Scout project
 - i. Several ideas were discussed; Justin is still trying to decide which project to work towards. Ideas include trail signs, replacing display case, or installation of watershed education signs.
6. Nature Center Maintenance Plan – a 1995 Nature Center Maintenance Guide was provided. Eric and Phyllis to review. The 1995 plan has very specific recommendations for maintenance, many of which were not implemented.
7. Nature Center Replanting
 - a. Keenan Porter was present and provided a proposed understory (along with current understory) and a proposed planting plan for the three test plan areas: A) Riparian, B) Upland and C) low woods. The plan matches the recommended areas identified by Dr. Emil Devito earlier this year. Keenan will provide renderings of the proposed planting areas.

Old Business

1. PMUA Environmental Fair – September 9, 2017 at Library Park from 10:30 – 3:00.
 - a. Let Eric know if you can attend
2. Fanny Wood Day – September 17, 2017
 - a. Let Eric know if you can attend
3. Union County Community Garden Grant
 - a. \$65.77 remaining (summary attached)
 - b. Sandy purchased repellent to help some of the plants that the deer and rabbits are eating in the gardens at Borough Hall.

- c. Sandy to purchase bulbs for the Pollinator and Butterfly Gardens for Spring color.
 - d. Sandy to work on signage / map
 - e. Garden Cleanup of 8/12/17 – Carol, Margaret and Sandy cleaned up the gardens and planted additional plants.
 - f. Margaret and Sandy to provide target dates for garden showcase in September.
4. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary to provide status
 5. The 2016 Annual Report was completed and distributed on 8/17/17.
 6. Grant Opportunities
 - a. Home Depot – Phyllis and Eric to revisit after Labor Day.
 - b. Green Acres
 - i. Follow up with the Borough to get / distribute copies of the 2017 Green Acres Grant Application – (see attached)
 - ii. Discuss grant application in brief
 7. Kathy has asked that recycle cans/bins be placed on each side of the Train Station.
 8. Kathy gave an update on the rat problem behind the businesses downtown.
 9. Find potential dates for edible plant walk for after Fannywood Day– Gary.
 10. Develop a mission statement and goals for the Nature Center – Margaret / Carol
(No Discussion)
 11. Develop of bylaws for the Environmental Commission – Sandy / Teresa **(No Discussion)**
 12. Send communication via the Fanwood weekly email about storm water management, and not throwing things into the catch basins in town – Eric **(No Discussion)**
 13. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC – Dave **(No Discussion)**

New Business

1. Budget and Receipts
 - a. All to review for outstanding items.
 - b. What major capital expenses left for year – general discussion about replacement of the display case
 - c. Memberships – checking on the Rahway River membership fee and who pays – Kathy.
2. Open discussion
 - a. It was noted that Gary is going to revise the Nature Center Guide in 2018.
 - b. The Environmental Congress is October 13th this year.
 - c. It was recommended that we enhance the Bible Chapel entrance with part of the remaining budget. This is a neglected area but it will be a good way

to enhance relations with our neighbor whose parking lot leads into the Nature Center.

Review of Plans

1. No Plans to Review this Month

Action Items

1. Eric to review surveys from the Bible Chapel and PSE&G
2. Eric and Phyllis to review the 1995 Nature Center Maintenance Guide
3. Sandy to purchase bulbs for the Pollinator and Butterfly Gardens
4. Sandy to work on signage / map for the gardens
5. Margaret and Sandy to provide target dates for garden showcase in September.
6. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary to provide status
7. Gary to find potential dates for edible plant walk (after Fannywood Day)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47.

Attachments

1. Copy of Union County Means Green Grant Budget
2. Copy of Environmental Commission Budget
3. Copy of Proposed Nature Center Rules
4. Copy of Letter to Union County
5. Copy of Green Acres Grant Application