



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

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

Members Present

Eric Gaulin, Phyllis Sandrock, Teresa Keeler (Planning Board Liaison), Gary Szelc, Margaret Chowdhury,

Members Absent

Dave Schwartzberg, Carol Walczuk, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison) Sandy Redder

Member Update

No new updates. The Environmental Commission is still short one alternate member.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without comment.

Nature Center Report

1. Goat fencing – Eric to provide update regarding 9/27/17 and 10/4/17 – the remains of the fence were removed by Green Goats on 9/27/2017 and 10/4/2017; sections along the power lines and near the Terrill Bible Chapel were left behind to maintain a border; some follow up will be needed to get the Fanwood Department of Public Works (DPW) to help with removal.
2. Vandalism repairs – Bird blind – Phyllis indicates that the matching fence pieces are not available yet.
3. Dead trees – Phyllis indicates that the tree requested to be removed from the Nature Center by the Shade Tree Commission contractor has been removed.
4. Set up a test plot within the Nature Center to study various methods to eradicate Japanese Knot Weed – Phyllis indicates the amount of manpower needed to implement this throughout the Nature Center will be significant; the test plot showing mixed results; Margaret indicates that more manual removal should be implemented in 2018, earlier in the season.

5. Weed wacking for knotweed on paths – Phyllis indicated that the new weed whacker is effective for approximately 30 minutes; it may be better to employ this earlier in the season in 2018. Phyllis also suggested that a second battery be purchased for 2018.
6. Scouts
 - a. Justin Chaillet Troop 33 Eagle Scout project – Eric reported that Justin’s project (watershed education, including signage and outreach) is still under review by the Boy Scout Council.
 - b. Michael Chiappi Troop 33 Eagle Scout project – Eric suggested a project of trail signage to this scout; scout is interested, more to follow.
7. Report on coordination with volunteers – 11/7/2017 – Phyllis to coordinate this group and will report on this next month.
8. Provide a list of project for the Green Acres revision
 - a. Revision to the existing Green Acres grant is needed. Eric provided the short list of projects on 10/9 to Mayor Mahr and forwarded same 10/18 to Fanwood Borough Engineer; the shortlist includes the following items:
 - i. Extend boardwalk, repair existing
 - ii. Construct three wildlife exclosures
 - iii. Examine / repair existing footbridges
 - iv. Install entry signage at three locations
 - v. Install trail signage
 - vi. Revitalize or move the classroom
 - vii. Improve two steep trails at Winding Way Trail and Stemmer Trail

Old Business

1. Union County Community Garden Grant / Garden Tour –
 - a. The workshop was not well attended; next year the group decided that a greater audience might be achieved with a give away next year, or perhaps work with an environmental club such as the Park Middle School environmental club
2. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – no discussion
3. Grant Opportunities
 - a. Home Depot – 2018
 - b. Green Acres
 - i. Discussed above
 - ii. Fiskars – 2018
 - c. American butterfly association – 2018
 - d. Bee Grant – Eric discussed this grant, which was brought to his attention by Eleanor McGovern; the Environmental Commission decided not to pursue this grant, as it was for funding to setup and maintain beehives

4. Develop a mission statement and goals for the Nature Center – Margaret / Carol – no discussion
5. Develop of bylaws for the Environmental Commission – Sandy / Teresa – no discussion
6. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC – no discussion
7. Website redirect – the old independent website (whose address is on all of the Nature Center guides and the Environmental Commission banner) has been setup to redirect to the official page on the Borough of Fanwood’s website
8. New members
 - a. With the resignation of Victoria Gal, the Commission is seeking two new members.

New Business

1. No new business discussed.

Review of Plans

1. There were no plans to review for this meeting.

Action Items

1. Call DPW to get remaining stockpile of removed fence picked up by DPW – Phyllis
2. Complete bird blind repairs – Phyllis
3. Report on knotweed removal pilot test – Phyllis / Margaret
4. Report on coordination with volunteers – Phyllis
5. Report on progress with Boy Scouts – Eric
6. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary
7. Provide a list of projects for the Green Acres revision – Eric
8. Develop a mission statement and goals for the Nature Center – Margaret / Carol
9. Develop of bylaws for the Environmental Commission – Sandy / Teresa
10. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC – Dave
11. Find additional members

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM

Attachments