



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
November 16, 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 November 16, 2017 at the Fanwood Community Center—2nd Floor Train Station by Eric Gaulin.

Chair Members Present

Eric Gaulin, Carol Walczuk, Sandy Redder, Dave Schwartzberg,

Members Absent

Teresa Keeler (pending Alternate #2); Margaret Chowdhury, Phyllis Sandrock, Gary Szelc, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison)

Member Update

Teresa Keeler resigned from the Planning Board; Eric has recommended that she be appointed as Alternate #2 to the Environmental Commission (term ending 12/31/2018)

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the October, 2017 meeting were approved.

Nature Center Report

1. Volunteers
 - a. Troop 33 put down mulch on 10/28/2017
 - b. All Saints Episcopal Church put down mulch on 11/11/2017
 - c. 9 separate volunteer events in 2017 vs one event in 2016
 - d. General discussion
2. Set up a test plot within the Nature Center to study various methods to eradicate Japanese Knot Weed – Phyllis / Margaret. No update.
3. Bird blind repair is still not complete
4. Eagle Scout Projects
 - a. Justin Chaillet Troop 33 Eagle Scout project – No update as this is still not approved.
 - b. Michael Chiappi Troop 33 Eagle Scout project
5. Replacement of the Message Center
 - a. Measurements review performed by Phyllis / Eric
 - b. Eric has gotten an example replacement, gave it to Pat Hoynes to spec it out

- c. Goal is to install in 2017. Looking at recycled plastic, sent out for quotes. Appears to be approximately \$680.
 - d. Will rely on Troop 33 and DPW to install
 - 6. Pickup of remaining fence pieces
 - 7. Other Nature Center Discussion
 - 8. List of projects for the Green Acres revision
 - a. 10/9 to Mayor Mahr; 10/18 to Engineer
 - i. Extend boardwalk, repair existing
 - ii. Three wildlife exclosures
 - iii. Examine / repair existing footbridges
 - iv. Entry signage
 - v. Trail signage
 - vi. Revitalize or move the classroom
 - vii. Improve two steep trails at Winding Way Trail and Stemmer Trail
 - b. Current status – we need engineering help to revise grant; Eric wrote general info, and re-wrote the RFP to get the engineering help to write up / cost this stuff out – RFP has not gone out yet

Old Business

- 1. Union County Community Garden Grant
 - a. Grant balance is \$6.97
- 2. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary provide status
- 3. Grant Opportunities
 - a. Need champions for these opportunities – **tabled for next meeting**
 - b. Home Depot – 2018
 - c. Green Acres – Discussed above
 - d. Fiskars – 2018
 - e. American Butterfly Association - 2018
- 4. Develop a mission statement and goals for the Nature Center – Margaret / Carol worked on brief document (attached); Eric will take this and refine it. Conservation easement still needs to be added to it. A question was brought up on whether the conservation easement needs to be modified due to green acres grant. **Eric** to follow up.
- 5. Develop of bylaws for the Environmental Commission – Sandy / Teresa. No update
- 6. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC – **Dave** to follow up with Clint to get a PSE&G contact.
- 7. New members

New Business

1. 2018 Garden Tour – It was suggested that we advertise much earlier next year (perhaps in March) as a garden workshop.
2. Budget
 - a. Tricia was instructed to pay Moenica for work done to date on ERI.
 - b. Membership in Raritan River Association was not paid yet in 2017.

Review of Plans

1. No Plans to Review this Month

Action Items

1. Champions needed for the grant opportunities
2. **Dave** to follow up with Clint to get a PSE&G contact regarding storm runoff.
3. **Eric** to follow up on the conservation easement question.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Attachments