



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Agenda
January 18, 2018

Opening

NJ Open Public Meetings Act was read and the meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

Members Present

Eric Gaulin, Phyllis Sandrock, Gary Szalc, Sandy Redder, Margaret Chowdhury, Dave Schwartzberg, Teresa Keeler, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison), Kevin Boris (Planning Board Liaison)

Members Absent

Carol Walczuk

Member Update

- Gary Szalc and Margaret Chowdhury reappointed as regular members, term ending 2020.
- Teresa Keeler appointed as alternate member, term ending 2018.
- Dave Schwartzberg appointed as alternate member, term ending 2019.
- Kevin Boris appointed as Planning Board Liaison

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved.

Nature Center Report

1. Bird blind repair – no update
2. Eagle Scout Projects
 - a. Justin Chaillet Troop 33 Eagle Scout project – project has been approved. Project will involve putting watershed education signs in the Nature Center as well as performing a watershed education program for the public.
 - b. Michael Chiappi Troop 33 Eagle Scout project – no update.
3. Replacement of the Message Center
 - a. Lack of sufficient funds, postponed to 2018. Update - Funds have been placed into 2018 budget.
4. Other Nature Center Discussion
 - a. Injured Deer – Phyllis to call and try to get help for it.
 - b. Trash and drug paraphernalia picked up by Eric and Phyllis on Saturday.
 - c. A 70 ft tree needs to be removed as it has snapped. Kathy to follow up and ask DPW to look at it.

- d. A shed was purchased to hold our tools, hoses, etc. We will need to set up in the Spring – perhaps ask Troop 33 to help. We plan to place near Phyllis’ house but in the NC.

Old Business

1. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary stated he is still working to finalize; manual markups were brought to the meeting, to give to Moenika Chowdhury.
2. Grant Opportunities
 - a. Green Acres
 - i. Revised work scope written by Eric, given to Pat Hoynes in November. The intent is to get Fanwood’s Engineering firm to review and help us scope it out, cost it, spec it out, etc.
 1. Design and build more boardwalk
 2. Construct wildlife exclosures
 3. Grubbing / Clearing / Replanting in exclosures
 4. Repair existing bridges / boardwalks
 5. Rebuild steep trails
 6. Install trail markers / signage
 - b. Fiskars – 2018. Teresa to spearhead this to get required information and submit.
 - c. American Butterfly Association – 2018 Teresa to spearhead this to get required information and submit.
 - d. She also mentioned Scott’s should be looked into as a possible option.
 - e. Teresa to follow up with Union County on the plants we may be able to get from them due to us being a grant recipient last year.
3. Develop a mission statement and goals for the Nature Center. Eric to review Carol’s draft and send to Margaret for final review.
4. Develop of bylaws for the Environmental Commission – Kevin to contact other towns to get copies and then involve the lawyers to develop bylaws for Fanwood.
5. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC. Dave is going to look at the area and get a contact for PSE&G and work on a solution.
6. 2018 Garden Workshop (March?). Still plan on having it in March. Also looking into getting it taped for Fanwood TV.
7. Budget
 - a. Review 2017 spending.
 - b. Review 2018 proposal. Add line items for the Rahway River Association, refreshments for our workshop, maintenance for trails (stilt grass, bird blind, etc.).

New Business

1. Dave reported that: Rutgers - Environmental Stewardship Program - meets every Friday morning (9:30 to 12:30) for 20 weeks in Westfield. Add to budget in case we have a volunteer or two.
2. Dave stated that training for Environmental Commissions and town engineers on storm water management issues, requirements of storm water management, etc. is being held. Dave to send out dates.
3. Dave reported that Union County will **NOT** have any more bio blitzes.

Review of Plans

1. 55 Fourth Street – Bulk variance. Eric to forward our comments.

Action Items

1. A 70 ft tree needs to be removed from the Nature Center as it has snapped. **Kathy** to follow up.
2. **Gary** to Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory.
3. **Teresa** to spearhead the grant opportunities to get required information and submit. She may need help from others in getting information. In addition, she will follow up with Union County on the plants we may be able to get from them due to us being a grant recipient last year.
4. Mission statement and goals - **Eric** to review Carol's draft and send to Margaret for final review.
5. Bylaws – **Kevin** to get examples to provide to Fanwood attorneys so they can write them up.
6. **Dave** is going to explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC. He is going to look at the area and get a contact for PSE&G and work on a solution.
7. Update 2018 budget with additional items/suggestions.
8. **Dave** to send out dates on storm water management training.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28.

Attachments