



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Minutes
April 19, 2018

Opening

NJ Open Public Meetings Act was read and the meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM

Members Present

Eric Gaulin, Phyllis Sandroek, Gary Szalc, Sandy Redder, Carol Walczuk, Teresa Keeler,

Members Absent

Dave Schwartzberg, Margaret Chowdhury, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison), Kevin Boris (Planning Board Liaison)

Guests: Avery Higginbotham, Jeff Higginbotham, Bridget Davis, Ria Paranjape, Mrs. Paranjape, Alex Moore, Dave Moore. 7th grade student volunteers (and their parents) for Social Studies. Would like to work at the Nature Center – three projects spending an hour or two on each project. Project needs to be complete by May 29. They will write up a proposal on clean up and creating litter signs for the NC.

Member Update

- None

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Approved without comment

Nature Center (NC) Report

1. Capital Improvements / Expenditures
 - a. Message Center, Video Cameras – no news on the budget.
 - b. Purchase of a chain saw – Commission voted to look into purchase of a chainsaw for the NC.
2. Other Nature Center Discussion
 - a. Citizen participation (message sign, patrols) – sign to report vandalism would be good in the NC.
3. Ongoing Maintenance Opportunities
 - a. Build small platform to site the shed; assemble and stage the shed
 - b. Spread wood chips
 - c. Line trails with larger fallen tree pieces
 - d. Citizen patrol
 - e. Break down of fallen trees
 - f. Help with eliminating invasive plants

4. Volunteer Groups
 - a. Troop 33
 - b. All Saints Episcopal Church
 - c. Four 7th graders from Terrill needing service hours
 - d. Bible Chapel (Lee is the contact)
 - e. SPF National Honor Society
 - f. Others
5. Volunteer Projects
 - a. Watershed Education Project – Troop 33, Justin Chaillet
 - i. Completed stream cleanup - completed
 - ii. Environmental educational program – completed at school
 - iii. Installed watershed education signage – complete, but we are going to suggest that backing be installed on the signs for support.
 - b. Trail Signage and Education
 - i. Install signage on permanent posts in the Nature Center at locations in coordination with the Nature Center, showing direction and trail name, distance and step counts
 - ii. Encourage increase physical fitness (i.e., working towards your daily steps)
 - iii. Michael Chiappi, corresponded on 4/9/2018 that he is going to submit to council.
 - c. Renovation of the Main Nature Center Entrance
 - i. Remove / replace bike rack
 - ii. Remove / replace / broken display case
 - iii. Remove / replace benches
 - iv. Restore painted sign at the entrance
 - v. planting donated native plantings to make this a more inviting area
 - vi. Project accepted by Alex Rodriguez 4/19/2018
 - d. Renovation of three other Nature Center Entrances
 - i. Procure and install three smaller display cases at the other three entrances to the Nature Center (Bible Chapel has two, LeGrande)
 - ii. We would also like these entrance areas cleaned up of vegetation, perhaps benches installed, entrance lined with logs, etc.
 - iii. Project offered to Steven Kozlowski 4/19/2018
 - e. Cleanup of the Classroom Area and Signage
 - i. Cleanup of the classroom
 - ii. Assess need for repair
 - iii. Design, make and install signage
 - iv. Plant native plantings and protect them

Old Business

1. Finalize the Fanwood Environmental Resources Inventory – Gary
 - a. Maps and such provided to Moenika
 - b. Plan for finalization and distribution – needs to be printed and distributed to Town Council and Planning Board. A brief presentation should be given, as well.
2. Grant Opportunities
 - a. Green Acres
 - i. Revised work scope finalized, given to bidders.
 - ii. One bidder – Najarian Associates, \$13k.
 - iii. Second bidder at a later date – T&M Associates - \$10.5k, awarded to them 4/16/18 (see attached)
 - iv. **T&M is seeking a kickoff call – who can attend?** Eric to send out proposed date when he gets it to a small group.
 - b. Sustainable NJ – Roots to Rivers
 - i. \$980 awarded to Fanwood 3/2018 after we were given opportunity to revise budget
 - ii. 4/4/18 call summary:
 - Purpose of the grant was to provide plantings to eliminate erosion along water ways. We were awarded \$960. In summary, we have 40 trees and 40 shrubs to plant. Grant did not include shipping costs or any kind of labor. Fanwood was one 8 groups which received a grant. Folks on the call were talking about planting 1000s of trees, something to consider for next year. Plantings must be completed by July 1, 2018 A grant report is due by July 31, 2018. The grant money will be mailed to Borough Hall. If we need help with determining spacing and the like, Nature Conservancy can provide this for us.
 - iii. Plantings need to be completed by 7/1/2018
 - iv. No flexibility in spending
 - v. Project leader for this is Teresa
 - c. American Water Grant
 - i. \$7,500 was awarded to Fanwood on 4/18/2018
 - ii. \$5,000 plantings; \$2,000 outdoor seating; \$500 advertising
 - iii. **Need a project leader for this**
 - d. Union County Means Green
 - i. Did not apply
 - ii. Any discussion regarding plants?
3. Develop a vision statement for the Nature Center – Eric has written – please review before the next meeting.

4. Develop bylaws for the Environmental Commission – last call for comments; Kevin to speak to attorney's; Eric's main point is to hash out term limit for chair person. Kevin was absent so no discussion.
5. Explore with PSE&G methods to mitigate storm runoff from Vinton Circle into the PSE&G and NC – Dave, no discussion
6. 2018 Garden Workshop – Reschedule date? Margaret absent so no discussion. Recall there is a store credit at Ambergs for \$200. We will need some annuals for the gardens.
7. Budget
 - a. No news
8. Girl Scouts (6th Graders) – meeting to learn about how the Borough manages environmental issues – 4/13/18 – Eric hosted this meeting
 - a. Gave general discussion of environmental rules, how they came about
 - b. Scouts need a small project to complete their environmental journey
 - c. Suggested helping plant native plants to encourage pollinators, perhaps planting boxes in town
9. Carol to get the Nature Center listed as an area where Master Gardeners can earn service hours. Teresa submitted and the board approached her with questions. Will be revised based on that.
10. Annual Report – Eric is writing

New Business

1. The Goddard School in Fanwood would like someone to come in during their summer camp in July to talk about conservation. Teresa volunteered if proposed date remains the same.
2. Plainfield MUA Environmental Fair – September 8th
3. Creation of a new poster / display for what we do. **Who would like to take the lead?** Pictures of us doing stuff, start collecting photos, email to Eric. Like to have completed by September.
4. Plainfield MUA would like to give our community a talk, following are the topics – Reduction of Carbon Footprints, The 3R's of Recycling, Water Pollution Prevention. When? Where?
5. Sustainable NJ needs a Fanwood leader. EC should have input, but not lead the project.

Review of Plans

1. 201 Marion - Bulk variance – Kitchen bump out, coverage is over. Comments submitted.

Action Items

- Write up a press release (Natalie D'Angelo) for our grants and Scout Project - Eric.
- Contact Amberg about picking up our plants for in the Pinelands - Teresa
- Teresa and Gary to investigate different methods for managing storm runoff from Vinton Circle
- Vision statement for the Nature Center – Eric has written – please review before the next meeting.
- Trail Stewards – Phyllis is going to work on.

Adjournment – 9:09