



## Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Monthly Meeting – Minutes

January 18, 2024 – 7:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT	Sandy Redder; Gary Szelc (Vice Chairperson); Phyllis Sandroock; Leslie Krone-Speck (Planning Board Liaison); Dave Schwartzberg; Suzanne Sanschagrín (Secretary), Andrea Parra; Antonios Panagopoulos (Borough Engineer)
MEMBERS ABSENT	Patricia Walsh (Borough Council Liaison)
GUESTS	
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p><b><u>Open Public Meetings Act</u></b> The opening public meetings act was read and the meeting came to order at 7:31 PM.</p> <p><b><u>Minutes</u></b> Accepted as written</p> <p><b><u>Membership Notes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and discuss roster for 2024</li> <li>• Chair (Sandy Redder), Vice chair (Gary Szelc), Secretary (same), Liaisons (planning same, council now Patricia Walsh)</li> <li>• EC considering change of meeting time to 7:00 p.m. from 7:30 p.m.</li> </ul>

### Nature Center

<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sink Hole near the bridge (Antonios / Phyllis / Dave) – old clay pipe that may have broken when bridge was installed; quote of \$2,600 for repair; DPW has covered it temporarily; pipe originates near classroom where opening is likely buried under leaves; photo attached to minutes; discovered 12/30/23; timing is 2 weeks out after approval</li> <li>• Bridge Replacement / Trail Bedding / Green Acres – general discussion, ribbon cutting -</li> <li>• Other items – re Nature Center rules. Follow up with Officer Krantz &amp; borough attorney on posting rules in Nature Center; rules not yet published or codified. Process ongoing to 8-9</li> </ul>

years – still waiting on input from Borough Attorney and PD. Sandy to work with Phyllis to complete. Resent to all. Trish to highlight.

- PSEG Row Butterfly Garden - sign was removed.
- Tire tracks in snow that are destroying paths observed by caretaker – both kids and adults
- Feeding birds to attract for Bird Count, eating quite a bit
- Stone dust washing out near Terrill Road Bible Church
- Bat boxes need to be replaced – 2 poles with 2 boxes each, have one kit available (down trail from Cray, turn right, one on left & one on right on 2 metal poles

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

### Environmental Commission Projects

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eagle Scout Project – Board Walk – Alexander Ho, Troop 104 – Scotch Plains Episcopal – (Dave) Photos attached</li> <li>• Eagle Scout Project – Invasive Species Brochure / Plant Markers – Eli Krantz, Troop 104 – (Sandy) - Sandy has signed off on Eli’s proposal (in January).</li> <li>• Girl Scout Project – Troop 40206 – Silver Award project- want to present at November meeting- would like to build 6 bird boxes using cedar plywood (Dave) – 2023 budget provided funds needed</li> <li>• Borough Hall Gardens – (Sandy / Leslie to lead/make arrangements)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Carol Hartner (Fanwood Gardener and Master Gardener) has volunteered to be liaison with the Master Gardeners.</li> </ul> </li> <li>•</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

### Old Business

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Team Updates – Andrea meeting next week, no update</li> <li>• Annual Report – Gary (2022), Need a volunteer for 2023 report (Suzanne)</li> <li>• Transferring Old Minutes to eCode360 (Eric) – No news</li> <li>• Adopt a Storm Drain Project – need to provide flat file to Adopt a Drain including coordinates;</li> </ul>		

stormwater MS4 general permit from DEP; by 2026 need GIS mapping; need to walk 26 miles of streets and use GIS to hit a button at each storm drain; Scout project – Dave spoke with Westfield with 1700 drains (300 sponsored), can see all drains through Hamlin University annual cost \$2,100, estimate cost to clean each drain is \$200 so it has a very positive cost benefit analysis – access to adoption rates, can have competitions, provide marketing materials – Westfield used Clean Communities grant money to pay for cost; item for Trish

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

New Business

**DISCUSSION**

- EC Email: [fanwood.ec.1895@gmail.com](mailto:fanwood.ec.1895@gmail.com) Need a volunteer to monitor on a regular basis. Dave to monitor
- Update EC Website: <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/environmental-commission/> - need a volunteer to review with Pat. Leslie
- EC Facebook Page - (Sandy)
- Rain Barrel Workshop. Need commitment from Borough. Barrels are available on Marketplace ~\$20, Diverter kits ~ \$20 and Spigots ~ \$12.- Not a cheap project, need assistance from town, Suzanne to see if food-grade drums are available, possibly have signups at Clean Communities Day – discuss with Trish
- Updating removal of dead tree ordinance – will require certification from 3<sup>rd</sup> party, also require planting of new trees even if tree is dead – once draft is available, will be reviewed by EC & shade tree commission – EC to provide list of native trees via link to lists – consider press releases related to tree planting after ordinance is in place
- Master Plan draft to be released in 2 weeks
- 2/21/24 7 pm meeting (Planning Board meeting) bring in Green Team, EC, and Shade Tree
- Nature Center Anniversary Year Celebration (1974) - **50 years!**
  - o Volunteers for Anniversary Committee (Phyllis / Sandy / Andrea / Leslie / Suzanne / Gary)
    - Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb. 16-19, 2024) event in the NC?
    - Other celebratory activities: Ribbon Cutting, Bird Houses, Clean Up, etc.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Review of Plans

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 131 Hunter Ave – mini mansion built and built up yard from soil moved from basement of new construction; escrow collection started for inspections; 127 Hunter clear cut lot (3 yrs ago) without approval, then planning board approval, grading was maintained; 131 Hunter moved in last year &amp; had water in yard, all clay soils, clear cuts lot here as well, ordinance doesn't require planting if dead trees removed; recommended storm pit in yard which didn't work; now wants town to help with drainage; drain in front of property, could put in pump in storm pit and pump to drain</li> <li>• 102 Willoughby – built house 2 years ago; added 200 ft2 patio goes right up to property line, water is piling up on neighbors; additional drainage is required, patio needs to be moved; Antonis to send out letter</li> <li>• 165 Westfield Road – shed + gazebo addition; stormwater management activities are needed;</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library plantings update – Leslie to forward plans to Antonios Pat currently has them; planting planned for March 2024</li> </ul>		

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13PM.