



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Monthly Meeting – Minutes

February 15, 2024 – 7:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT	Sandy Redder (Chairperson); Gary Szalc (Vice Chairperson); Suzanne Sanschagrín (Secretary); Andrea Parra; Patricia Walsh (Borough Council Liaison)
MEMBERS ABSENT	Leslie Krone-Speck (Planning Board Liaison); Antonios Panagopoulos (Borough Engineer); Dave Schwartzberg; Phyllis Sandrock;
GUESTS	Carol Chimento
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p><u>Open Public Meetings Act</u></p> <p>The opening public meetings act was read and the meeting came to order at 7:33 PM.</p> <p><u>Minutes:</u> January minutes approved as written</p>

Nature Center

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Nature Center report for January at the end of this document. • Sink Hole near the bridge (Antonios / Phyllis / Dave) – repair completed • Bridge Replacement / Trail Bedding / Green Acres – general discussion, ribbon cutting - • Other items – re Nature Center rules Sandy to work with Phyllis to complete. Draft of rules are being reviewed by BA & attorney. Plan is to amend Parks Rules ordinance to include Nature Center Rules. To be discussed at 1st council meeting in March and voted on at 2nd meeting in March. • Stone Dust Trail Wash out update - • Bat Boxes - Phyllis sent pictures of existing boxes/poles. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Environmental Commission Projects

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagle Scout Project – Invasive Species Brochure / Plant Markers – Eli Krantz, Troop 104 – (Sandy) - Sandy has signed off on Eli’s proposal (in January). No update since January. • 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) – • Eagle Scout Project – Bat Boxes for Nature Center – Matthew Mui, Troop 33 – Working with Gary • Borough Hall Gardens – (Leslie, Sandy) • Nature Center Anniversary Year Celebration (1974) - 50 years! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Volunteers for <u>Anniversary Committee</u> (Phyllis / Sandy / Suzanne / Gary / Andrea / Leslie) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb. 16-19, 2024) event in the NC? Leslie, Sandy and Suzanne are available. ▪ Other celebratory activities: Ribbon Cutting, Bird Houses, Clean Up, Tours, etc. ▪ Group to meet – Andrea to coordinate to determine schedule of event • 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Old Business

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Team Updates – Andrea - big focus is Sustainable Jersey action items/plans • Annual Report – Gary (2022), Suzanne (2023) - • Transferring Old Minutes to eCode360 (Eric) – No news • Adopt a Storm Drain Project (Andrea) – Patricia to review with council; Andrea to discuss with Antonios • Master Plan update (Leslie) – No update 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

New Business

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update EC Website: https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/environmental-commission/ -Laslie to review with Pat. Rain Barrel Workshop. Need commitment from Borough. Barrels are available on Marketplace ~\$20, Diverter kits ~ \$20 and Spigots ~ \$12.Sandy to send info to Patricia Get together with the Planning Board and other Commissions on February 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Need EC members to attend. Fanwood Tree Ordinance - Review and provide comments by February 29 to Antonios. Comments provided and supported; provide additional comments after review ANJEC Grants - deadline is Friday, April 26. Ideas/suggestions. Rain barrels? Discuss Changing Meeting start time to 7:00 PM – voted upon and agreed to. Landscaping for Carriage House once construction is finished – consider Rutgers to design? – grant to pay for costs? 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Review of Plans

DISCUSSION		
•		

Fanwood Nature Center Report
January 2024

The borough engineer attended this month's FEC meeting and apprised the committee of work needed to repair the sinkhole previously reported.

The broken pipe creating a sinkhole in the FNC was repaired and the hole filled in near the new bridge. Barricade barrels remain on top of this area until the ground settles as a safety measure. There has been some evidence of bike tracks eroding the new gravel paths.

With a temperate winter there have been many families walking through the FNC. A few people have commented that they come often and enjoy being in the natural setting. Many dog walkers are regulars in the FNC and voice their appreciation for the newest boardwalk spanning the muddiest terrain.

Several boards of the original raised boardwalk have evidence of breakage and require replacement. These boards were measured and will be cut and replaced with newer boards left over from the recent Eagle scout boardwalk project.

The bird feeding station has been quite active this winter replete with Northern cardinals, woodpeckers, finches and sparrows. Caretaker is maintaining several days a week in an effort to attract as many native birds to the area as possible ahead of the Great American Bird Count in February.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Sandroek, FEC

Meeting was adjourn at 8:35 PM.