



# Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT	Sandy Redder (Secretary), Gary Szalc (Vice Chair), Eric Gaulin (Chair), Kevin Boris (Planning Board Liaison), Margaret Chowdhury, Phyllis Sandrock, Dave Schwartzberg, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison)
MEMBERS ABSENT	
GUESTS	Antonios Panagopoulos
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p><b><u>Open Public Meetings Act</u></b>          The opening public meetings act was read and the meeting came to order at 7:30 PM. Minutes from the previous month were approved.</p> <p><b><u>Minutes</u></b>          The minutes for the previous meeting were distributed on January 25<sup>th</sup> via email, included here again as Attachment 1.</p> <p><b><u>Meeting Details</u></b></p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting  <a href="https://zoom.us/j/93819002240?pwd=dTBXSXg2Vjl0dCtZc0tIQ3Fsek9zdz09">https://zoom.us/j/93819002240?pwd=dTBXSXg2Vjl0dCtZc0tIQ3Fsek9zdz09</a>          Meeting ID: 938 1900 2240          Password: 190517</p> <p>Dial by your location          +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)          Meeting ID: 938 1900 2240          Password: 190517</p> <p><b><u>Municipal Directory</u></b>          Municipal directory has been distributed and is included as Attachment 2.</p>

Nature Center

DISCUSSION
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Center Caretakers Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bridge replacement - nothing new to report.</li> <li>○ Boardwalk cleaning - nothing new to report.</li> <li>○ Security cameras - nothing new to report.</li> <li>○ Invasive plants - nothing new to report.</li> <li>○ Tree maintenance - nothing new to report.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

## Volunteer Projects

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Work / Volunteers (Sandy / Margaret) - Sandy reported that a call for garden volunteers will go out starting with this weeks email blast.</li> <li>• Local student at UCVTech (Environmental / Sustainability Program) – internship - Margaret reported that she had talked to his advisor (he needs 100 hours) and the project is fine. She met with Luca and showed him the area with Ivy. He will also research invasive plants, beneficial natives, etc.</li> <li>• Girl Scout Gold Award – More boardwalk - Eric reported it has been shelved.</li> <li>• Boy Scout Eagle Award – Dave. Possibles: Boardwalk, signage, rain garden, other plantings.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Signage - Sandy to send example of plant tags that we put together last year as we need for more plants	Sandy	
Dave to reach out to his niece to see if we can borrow her goat for the rain garden.	Dave	

## Grants

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update by Antonios - nothing new to report.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ANJEC and other grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1500 grant program - deadline is May. All to give Eric ideas before next meeting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It was suggested that we also try for a grant for the Boardwalk.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Gary to follow up with ANJEC to make sure Eric is added to their list.	Gary	
All to give Eric ideas before next meeting.	All	

## Old Business

DISCUSSION
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough Hall Rain Garden (news on demolition – Sandy / Margaret). No update.</li> <li>ANJEC – Completed invoice, with request for \$425 submitted in January 2022. Gary – can you please follow up re our membership list.</li> <li>Rahway River Association – Completed invoice, with request for \$250 submitted in January 2022.</li> <li>Great Backyard Bird Count – 2/18 to 2/22.</li> <li>Plastic Bag Ban Discussion – Kevin Boris</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

## New Business

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native Plant Plan – Borough Hall - Margaret reported that she talks to Katrina M and she would be willing to work with us on the Borough Hall project. She is a landscape architect - she can design but will not plant. She will also come up with a maintenance plan. She will need a site plan. Budget was not discussed.</li> <li>Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021 Expenditure = \$705.71, against request of \$1,564</li> <li>2020 Expenditure = \$974.92, against request of \$1,564</li> <li>2022 Requested Items Already = ANJEC Dues (\$425), RRWA Dues (\$250) = \$675</li> <li>Ideas? Budget Request Form Needed</li> </ul> </li> <li>Borough Hall Postcard of Events for the town <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y / N? - Dates lock us in - let's not at this point in time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Clean Communities Day - April 21.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Antonios to send the Borough Hall site plan to Margaret. Gary also noted that there is an arial photo of the area we should include. He also suggested that an inventory be taken of the area.	Antonios	

## Review of Plans

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>162 Farley Avenue; two story addition to rear of single-family home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front Yard Setback – 30', present 10.3'; 10.0' proposed</li> <li>Corner lot, two front yards</li> </ul> </li> <li>70 South Avenue' preliminary and final site plan former Fanwood Animal Hospital, replacing with 3 story mixed use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various nonconformities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No Environmental issue for 162 Farley Ave.</p> <p>70 South Ave. - Storm water report looked good. Include native plantings.</p>	

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Links to applications: <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/>