



# Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Monthly Meeting – Minutes

March 17, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT	Sandy Redder (Secretary), Gary Szalc (Vice Chair), Eric Gaulin (Chair), Margaret Chowdhury, Phyllis Sandrock, Dave Schwartzberg, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison)
MEMBERS ABSENT	Kevin Boris (Planning Board Liaison)
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.</p> <p><b><u>Minutes</u></b>          The minutes for the previous meeting (February 17<sup>th</sup>) were previously submitted via email, included here again as Attachment 1. Minutes from February were approved.</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>

## Nature Center

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Center Caretakers Report               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bridge replacement - awaiting Green Acres.</li> <li>○ Boardwalk cleaning - no update.</li> <li>○ Security cameras - The police are going to be stepping up patrols (1X/night, moving to 2X). A Trail cam was also recommended.</li> <li>○ Invasive plants - no update</li> <li>○ Tree maintenance - waiting for Spring to see what is alive.</li> <li>○ The bird blind was removed after the vandalism. The bench was also replaced.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

## Volunteer Projects

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Work / Volunteers (Sandy / Margaret) - Next step is to have an introductory meeting. We have quite a few new volunteers and two scout troops. Hopefully we can have a meeting next week.</li> <li>• Local student at UCVTech (Environmental / Sustainability Program) – internship - Margaret. He has started with the Ivy removal.</li> <li>• Girl Scout Gold Award – More boardwalk - Eric. Not going to happen.</li> <li>• Boy Scout Eagle Award – Dave. No update.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

## Grants

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Acres               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update by Antonios</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ANJEC and other grants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1500 grant program - We do have a grant writer that we can use. Write up requests for Boardwalk and Boro Hall plan/garden.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

## Old Business

DISCUSSION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough Hall Rain Garden (news on demolition – Sandy / Margaret). Still there.</li> <li>Budget (Attachment 2). Eric has submitted some numbers.</li> <li>Native Plant List (Attachment 3) – Kathy.</li> <li>Borough Hall Planting Plan. Margaret to follow up.</li> <li>Status / Inspection of Storm Water Retention Basin at Borough Hall Complex – Antonios. He will check if there is an SOP or inspection process. When was it designed, structural integrity is of concern, etc.</li> <li></li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

## New Business

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Report – need a volunteer.</li> <li>A discussion was had to return to in person meetings (and approved). Antonios volunteered to set up the meeting electronically if needed. We will begin next month (April). Eric will check to see if Carriage House is available in the future, as well.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Request to send the group a native plant resource for our area.	Sandy to send to the group	

## Review of Plans

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>351 Midway Avenue; multiple existing variances / non conformities; seeking a significant increase in impervious cover, essentially making most of the existing usable back yard into impervious cover.</li> </ul>	Eric and Gary to provide Env. Comm. input and comments. Dry well should also have a maintenance plan. Drainage be directed to dry well.	

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

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