



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Monthly Meeting – Minutes

September 15, 2022 – 7:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT	Eric Gaulin (Chair), Sandy Redder (Secretary), Phyllis Sandrock, Kathy Mitchell (Borough Council Liaison), Margaret Chowdhury, Andrea Parra, Dave Schwartzberg, Antonios Panagopoulos
MEMBERS ABSENT	Gary Szelc (Vice Chair),
GUESTS	Eagle Scout Candidates – Varun Chauhan (Parents Vinay & Himani); Eli Krantz (Parent Joshua). Gail Rheon from Troop 104. Clint Dickson, DPW Mayor Colleen Mahr
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<u>Open Public Meetings Act</u> The opening public meetings act was read and the meeting came to order at 7:33 PM. Minutes from the previous month were approved. <u>Minutes</u> The minutes for the previous meeting (previously distributed) included at Attachment 1.

Eagle Scout Discussion

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 1 – Native Plants. Eli Krantz wants to label native plants around town. Deadline is two years, wants to start soon. We directed him to do some research and outline what he wants to accomplish. Project 2 – Nature Center. Varun Chauhan wants to extend the boardwalk at the Nature Center. Deadline is three years, wants to start early spring. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Borough Hall Gardens

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flagpole Garden - The EC explained that the Flag Pole garden is a Monarch Waystation and there are certain plant requirements that need to be in the garden. Note: Video of the Flagpole garden taken shortly after the meeting is attached. Planting plan - We inquired on what the status of the review was. Rain Garden - The garden had poison ivy and has since been mowed down. The sign needs to be removed. The goal is to recreate the rain garden. Mowing should stop. The EC asked Clint why there were newly planted invasive non-natives around the Arts Center. Dormant (because of the drought) native ferns were dug out in this process and the work of one of our volunteers to pull out the invasive ivy was for naught. Clint knew nothing of the plantings and said he would find out. We expressed concerns to the Mayor and Clint that this was another example of volunteer work being minimalized. We would have loved to use the funds instead on native plants. It was reiterated that the goal is to plant natives, not use pesticides and/or herbicides on all Borough property. We asked where the Mayor and Council stood on passing an ordinance on that. An example (Eatontown) will be sent out to them. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Have an article written on the Gardens. The Mayor and Council need to discuss maintenance. Send out the Eatontown ordinance. Look at Caretaker position for the Gardens.	Eatontown ordinance was sent to Eric and then on the to Council. Also included here as an attachment.	

Nature Center

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General notes from Caretaker Safety and security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom area (see Attachment 2) - Clint will cut the benches down and remove. Bird blind area (see Attachment 3) Green Acres project - Antonios gave and update - two bridges and stone path being included. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope Schedule Next steps 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
We are asking the Mayor and Council to look into the safety of the NC and people inside.		

Old Business

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden talks / lectures – Wild Edibles – Gary – to advance this • Fanny Wood Day – 9/18/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publications ○ Handouts ○ Watershed Model ○ Schedule ○ Tablecloth was ordered but will not arrive in time. • Goats potentially owned by town - Dave • 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

New Business

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANJEC Congress (10/11 to 10/13 – Virtual; 10/14 – in person). Let Eric know if you want to go. • Terms for Eric Gaulin, Sandy Redder, Phyllis Sandrock expire 12/31/22 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Review of Plans

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Attachments: Eatontown:

https://www.eatontownnj.com/DocumentCenter/View/501/05-2022---Planting-and-Landscape-Native-Plants-Trees?bidId&fbclid=IwAR204StgARi5CrneDaQLFBIxm5p7ehOJxeQ92yF7eXrLtKX_gb-4fUI7kNM&mibextid=4td405

Flagpole video:
Sent separately