



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission
 Monthly Meeting – Minutes
 January 16, 2025 – 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT	Sandy Redder (Chairperson); Gary Szelc (Vice Chairperson); Suzanne Sanschagrín (Secretary); Leslie Krone-Speck (Planning Board Liaison); Phyllis Sandrock; Dave Schwartzberg; Carol Chimento; Andrea Parra; Patricia Walsh (Borough Council Liaison)
MEMBERS ABSENT	
GUESTS	
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Open Public Meetings Act</p> <p>The opening public meetings act was read and the meeting came to order at 7:03 PM.</p> <p>Minutes: December minutes approved</p> <p>Membership Notes: Review and discuss roster for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and discuss roster for 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MaryAnne has resigned, Andrea to move up from alternate. Two alternate positions open. • Chair, Vice chair, Secretary, Liaisons – no other changes • Meeting dates and locations (see below)

Nature Center

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Center report (Phyllis) Update: Birds are eating voraciously. Looking for second feeding station for smaller birds. Quiet at this time of year. Light trash. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Any update on Tree inspection? (Phyllis) Update: Was included in December report to Council. Phyllis to follow up with Jesse on this. o Any update on path maintenance? (Phyllis) Update: Entrance near chapel parking lot has liner showing through gravel; need maintenance plan; • GBBC - Sandy to create flyer to advertise the Great Backyard Bird Count in the Nature Center over President’s weekend (Feb 14-17). An “event” was created in the GBBC website. Need volunteers to go each day to count and report birds. Poster being created by

communications to be sent as e-mail blast and used for publicity. Sandy to send poster to FEC members for approval prior to use.

Environmental Commission Projects

- Winter Sowing Workshop - Scheduled for January 29th, 7:00 at Forest Road Park. (Sandy, Leslie, Carol, Andrea) **Update:** To date, 33 people have signed up; projector still needed;
- Eagle Scout Project - replace about 50 ft of the wooden walkway at the Fanwood Nature Center, replacing the bench and clearing the area of invasive plants - Paul Allen. Proposal has been signed off by FEC and is being sent for approval at Patriots Path Council. (Dave) **Update:** No update
- Eagle Scout Project - NC Bike racks. Project approval provided to Scout by Dave. (Dave): **Update:** No update
- Eagle Scout Project – Borough Hall Demonstration Garden – Alex H. Leslie has provided information to Alex on rain gardens & has reached out for a coach. (Suzanne) **Update:** Leslie met with Alex and reviewed planning topics;
- Need to create checklist/guideline for FEC on Scout projects (Dave) **Update:** Dave has created a first draft and sent it out for review.

Old Business

DISCUSSION

- Green Team Updates – (Andrea) **Update:** Green Team has not met since previous meeting. They meet next week. Union Co. has periodic meetings with all Green Teams in Union Co.
- EC Website: <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/environmental-commission/> **Sandy to prepare** write up of borough hall gardens.
- Budget Update (Sandy and Trish): **Submitted.**

New Business

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Projects – Winter Sowing (Sandy/Leslie/Carol - Jan 29), GBBC (Sandy Feb 15-17, 2025), Spring Garden Cleanup & Tours (Leslie), NC Trail Maintenance Day (2 weeks after Clean Communities Day), Youth Day (Suzanne), etc. Bring ideas and potential dates to next meeting. Additions: Meditation events (Andrea). Update: possible Clean Comm Day will be April 26th. • Discuss preparation of letter to borough regarding need for additional leaf pickup after weather has warmed to 50 to allow for better protection of pollinators in gardens. Leslie to follow up to add this to green tips from Green Team as well to assist in education. Suzanne and Dave to work on. • School grant opportunity - want the EC to be their Community partner. Leslie to be contact. • Girl Scout Inquiry – Coles Brownies – 15 2nd graders; • 2024 Annual Report - Need a Volunteer to complete by end of January. Suzanne to create.

Review of Plans

Links to applications: https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/	Comments:
No plans to review	

2025 Meeting Dates:

January 16
 February 20
 March 20
 April 17
 May 15* (*FPL instead of Carriage House*)
 June 19* (*Holiday*)
 July 17
 August 21
 September 18* (*FPL instead of Carriage House*)
 October 16
 November 20* (*FPL instead of Carriage House*)
 December 18

Andrea Parra was sworn in to her new role as full commission member for the next three years.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.