

**FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2021**  
**Meeting held via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Mary Orloff, Sid Dvorkin, Caitlin Kendall, Marie Cueman, Brian Bill, Stan Wisnewski, and William Zuckerman

**Borough Engineering Department Liaison Present:** Kayla Kaplan, Engineering Assistant

**Public Present:** one person – no contact information

**Presiding:**

**Abbreviations Defined:**

\*EC = Environmental Commission

\*CMA = Conservation Management Area

\*CS = Contaminated Sites

\*NJ DEP = New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

\*SGL = Spring Garden Lake

\*RMP = Recreation Master Plan

\*FBP = Fish Brook Park

\*F&W = Fish and Wildlife

\*TT = Traction Trail

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM.

**Sunshine Law – Open Public Meetings Act Announcement:**

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by publishing the Annual Notice of Meetings in the newspaper, posting the Annual Notice of Meetings on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, and by filing with the Borough Clerk.

**Meeting Closed to Public.**

Minutes from January meeting deferred until March.

**Old Business:**

- Membership Update – Ms. Orloff gave an update that the EC still has two member vacancies. She will follow up the Mayor Taylor. There have been issues regarding recruitment and appointment of members to the EC over the years.
- Priorities Update:
  - Quarterly newsletter and social media: Decision made to contribute content to the town's quarterly newsletter. Ms. Cueman will be point person for the newsletter. Ms. Herold is the contact person for the town. Ms. Kendall gave an overview on starting a Facebook page for the EC.
  - Increase utilization of Borough resources (Zoom account, Municipal Clerk as POC for new Open Meeting notice requirements, etc.) for better efficiency, visibility, and integration with other Borough operations. Mr. Dvorkin will be our contact with the town.
  - Continue proactive management of SGL with Princeton Hydro and the Borough staff, including aggressive action to remove invasive phragmites. Mr. Dvorkin and Mr. Wisnewski will be contact people on this priority.
  - Update and improve the Borough's Open Space Inventory. Ms. Orloff has found prior Open Space Inventory from 2012 and will coordinate if and when the new one will be done with the town.
  - Communicate and educate residents about proper use and non-use of fertilizers and pesticides to reduce their entry into storm drains and the environment, streams and lakes. Information will be placed on our Facebook page and in the quarterly newsletter.

- Use Tree Bank funds to plant new trees on Borough properties. Ms. Kaplan is the contact for the Tree Bank. Interested residents can contact Ms. Kaplan regarding getting new trees for their properties.
- Continue support of, provide resources and guidance to Eagle Scouts and others for environmental related projects, further engagement with Girl and Boy Scouts (e.g. badge programs and/or community service days). Three eagle projects have been identified for 2021 two will be done with EC support along with one being done at the Fish Property with support from the town. Mr. Bill will continue to function as the liaison between the EC and Scouts.
- Community involvement: To get the Borough community involved with our efforts, especially at the lake with organizing a community day in April where we have volunteers come out to work on projects (laying wood chips, cleaning up trash, planting, etc.). Use Liam Bill's SGL pollinator garden to work with the Borough school system where class trips (once COVID has settled) can come out and we can educate the students on what a pollinator garden is.
- Assess newly acquired land behind BP gas station to develop and propose actionable improvement projects. Mr. Dvorkin has not been able to see the property due to the snow.
- DPW Luncheon – The luncheon was well-received by the workers. Thank you to Mr. Bill for organizing it.
- Mr. Zuckerman gave a report for the 2020 budget.

### **New Business:**

- EC Facebook page- discussion held regarding having an EC Facebook page. Page will be designed to have pictures of the EC and Scout projects, links to articles and websites related to environmental issues, and environmental events announcements. Ms. Kendall has agreed to be the administrator of the page. Motion to approve the EC Facebook page done by Mr. Zuckerman and seconded by Ms. Cueman. Approved by all.
- SGL – Discussion held on the need to document the depth of the lake. Methods to take this inventory were discussed. Mapping of lake will also need to be done. Mr. Bill will investigate if this could be a Scout project.
- Ms. Orloff gave an update on the upcoming training programs by ANJEC.
- Planning Board Meeting – Mr. Dvorkin stated that there were no issues presented that impacted the EC.
- Watershed Ambassador – Ms. Orloff got a request from this organization to attend one of our meetings and give a presentation. Will defer invitation until a future meeting.
- Brooklake Road Clean Up – Mr. Bill stated that this road will need to be cleaned again. Will look to schedule with town.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Zuckerman and seconded by Mr. Dvorkin. Approved by all

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 PM