

FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – January 26, 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: none

Presiding:

Abbreviations Defined:

*EC = Environmental Commission

*SGL = Spring Garden Lake

*CMA = Conservation Management Area

*RMP = Recreation Master Plan

*CS = Contaminated Sites

*FBP = Fish Brook Park

*NJ DEP = New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

*F&W = Fish and Wildlife

*TT = Traction Trail

Meeting called to order at 7:36 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 November 2020 meeting presented. Motion to approve by Mr. Zuckerman and seconded by Mr. Dvorkin. Approved by all.

New Business:

- Ms. Orloff introduced Ms. Kendall as a member of the EC. She is listed as an alternate member.
- **Proposed EC Priorities for 2021** -The following proposed priorities were discussed and a point person was identified to be the leader for the priority.
 - Quarterly newsletter, similar to what Madison produces. Also, social media presence, either via a page on Borough website or another location if Borough site is not an option. Ms. Cueman to be point person for this priority.
 - 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 coordinate this priority.
 - Participation in Sustainable NJ and work towards bronze level town certification. <https://www.sustainablejersey.com> Ms. Orloff will chair this initiative.
 - Continue proactive management of SGL with Princeton Hydro and the Borough staff, including aggressive action to remove invasive phragmites. Mr. Dvorkin and Wisnewski will continue to lead this effort.

- Update and improve the Borough's Open Space Inventory. Ms. Orloff
- 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.
- Use Tree Bank funds to plant new trees on Borough properties. Ms. Kaplan
- 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). 3 Eagle projects have been identified for 2021. Mr. Bill
- Community involvement: To get the Borough community more 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'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 kids on what a pollinator garden is, etc. Mr. Bill
- Fish Farm: Connor Bender's Eagle project has been approved by the Borough and Boy Scouts to place a trail at the Fish Farm. EC could take responsibility for that area and start to beautify it even more with future gardens, benches, etc. Similar to what we do at SGL. Mr. Bill
- Assess newly acquired land behind BP gas station to develop and propose actionable improvement projects. Mr. Dvorkin
- SGL – Update was given that DPW is working on the removal of the phragmites. Also, the illegal dock has been removed from the borough property.
- Ms. Orloff stated that ANJEC will be providing educational sessions this spring. She encouraged members to attend. Motion made by Mr. Wisnewski to renew our membership in the organization. Seconded by Mr. Dvorkin. Approved by all.
- Planning Board – Mr. Dvorkin reported that the Alfieri property on Columbia Turnpike is looking to be developed as a mix use commercial/residential property.
- Website – Ms. Orloff met with Ms. Williams to discuss putting environmental information on the town website. Ms. Williams stated that the town does not have the resources to do this. The EC will explore options regarding getting environmental content out to the town.
- Update on Scout Projects – Mr. Bill provided an update on the four Scout projects currently being conducted. Three are being done at SGL and one is being done at the Fish Property.
- Guests – A representative from Princeton Hydro will come to our March meetings to discuss our contract with them. Ms. Orloff stated that a representative from the NJ Watershed organization would like to come to one of our meetings. Will schedule for a future meeting.
- Mr. Zuckerman made a motion to start our EC meetings at 7 pm starting in February. Seconded by Mr. Bill. Approved by all.

- DPW – Mr. Wisnewski discussed the need to thank DPW for the work done with the EC. Decision made to have a luncheon as a thank you. Mr. Bill offered to organize it.
- EC Officers – Ms. Orloff will remain as EC chairperson; Mr. Dvorkin will be vice chairperson and Ms. Cueman will be secretary.
- 2021 Budget- Mr. Zuckerman stated that he submitted \$26,000 for the 2021 fiscal year. Some funds were remaining from the 2020 budget.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm