

FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes –Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Members Present: Mary Orloff, Nicholas Cicarelli, Caitlin Kendall, Brian Bill, Marie Cueman, Sid Dvorkin, and Rich Hause.

Borough Engineering Department Liaison: Kayla Kaplan, Engineering Assistant – joined via phone

Presiding: Mary Orloff

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 7:00 p.m.

Sunshine Law – Open Public Meeting Act Announcement:

Adequate notice of this additional meeting was given by filing with the Borough Clerk, posting on the Borough's website calendar of meeting dates, and posting in the Florham Park EC Facebook Group.

The meeting opened to the public at 7:00 p.m. No public was present.

Emails:

- Ms. Orloff stated that the EC received an email from a Professor at Drew University asking permission for students from Drew University to test the water at Spring Garden Lake. Permission was granted.
- Ms. Shah from the Florham Park Library wrote that the library was deferring the rain garden for the near future.

Meeting Closed to the Public.

Minutes from the September 2023 meeting were approved with corrections. Motion to approve by Mr. Dvorkin and seconded by Ms. Cueman. Approved by all.

Minutes from the October 2023 meeting were approved with corrections. Motion to approve by Mr. Hause and seconded by Ms. Cueman. Approved by all.

New Business:

- The schedule for the meetings for 2024 was approved and sent to our contact at the borough. This will be posted on the website.
- Members who have been reappointed in 2024 need to be sworn in for their term. This can be done at the borough reorganization meeting on January 4, 2024 or by our contact at the borough.
- Our January and February 2024 meetings will be held by zoom. Ms. Orloff will obtain a zoom account through the borough to hold the meetings. Link will be posted on the borough website and sent to members.

Old Business:

- **Pollinator Garden Update** - Mr. Hause reported that the foundation for the garden has been completed. Outdoor work will be needed to be scheduled for the Spring. Will look to schedule and look for community volunteers to assist. Need a water source closer to the garden. Discussion held on getting a rain barrel. Will investigate getting one for the spring.
- **SGL Update** – Phragmites will need to be removed on a regular basis. DPW has assisted with this task. Mr. Cicarelli recommended a regular maintenance schedule for the DPW. Will discuss with DPW. 2024 proposal by Princeton Hydro deferred until next meeting.
- **Earth Day Update** – this is a sponsored EC event. Discussed work that needs to be done at SGL. Will formalize projects that need to be done at the lake that can be done on Earth Day. Will look to get community groups to assist in this projects and other projects identified by the EC. Discussion held that EC may need to schedule projects during the week to accommodate corporations' schedules.
- **SGL Kiosk** - Discussion held on placing a second one on the lake. Information should include maps, instructions for removing carp, along with information on what wildlife and fish can be found at the lake. Please forward suggestions to Ms. Orloff. This could be a scout project.
- **NJDEP Grant** - No update at this time.
- **Budget** – Ms. Orloff updated EC regarding budget. Members discussed items that we may need in the coming year. Will finalize items at next meeting.
- **Elm Street Facility** – Plans include better storm water management.
- **Student Intern** – Mr. Hause contacted the Environmental Studies chairperson at Drew University to see if we could use students for projects at SGL.
- **Styrofoam Recycling** – Mr. Dvorkin called Madison to discuss if Florham Park could be included in their Styrofoam recycling program. Madison declined our participation.

- **Facebook Page** – send items to Ms. Kendall for posting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Cueman