

FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes –Tuesday, January 23, 2024

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

Members Absent: Brian Bill and Katie Riordan.

Borough Engineering Department Liaison: Kayla Kaplan, Engineering Assistant was absent.

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 7:02 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 7:02 p.m. No public was present.

Meeting Closed to the Public at 7:03 p.m.

November minutes approved unanimously with corrections.

New Business:

-EC Officers 2024 – A motion was made to nominate Ms. Orloff as Chair, Mr. Dvorkin as Vice Chair, and Ms. Kendall as Secretary for 2024. This was unanimously approved by all. There is no EC treasurer role, however Mr. Cicarelli will assist as budget coordinator to help keep track of finances.

-EC Minutes – Moving forward, all approved EC minutes are to be forwarded to Lisa Gaeta, Assistant to Borough Clerk. Ms. Kendall will work to send 2023 minutes to her attention.

-Checking Account/Debit Card – Mr. Cicarelli will speak to Patrice Visco, Borough CFO about the possibility of setting up a checking account and/or debit card for the EC for purchase orders.

-Arbor Day 2024 – Arbor Day 2024 is Friday, April 26, 2024. Ms. Kaplan is the lead for organizing the sapling giveaway in conjunction with the Borough and the FP Library. Ms. Cueman and Ms. Orloff will assist with sapling distribution on Arbor Day. A sapling planting tips flier (best practices) will need to be created for this year's giveaway.

-Earth Day at the Lake 2024 – Earth Day at SGL 2024 will be on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The focus will be on planting and on path maintenance. Mr. Bill is the lead for organizing Earth Day. He will present our plan for Earth Day at the February meeting. Ms. Cueman will start creating an Excel list of potential volunteers from past sign-in sheets. Ms. Kendall will advertise in our Facebook group.

-Phragmite Removal – This will not be focused on during Earth Day at SGL but done beforehand to prepare. The EC is organizing a cleanup and phragmite removal in late March for Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

-Great Swamp Watershed Association Native Plant Sale – The annual native plant sale is April 1-19, 2024. The EC will be assisting with this sale again by advertising and volunteering where possible. The plant pick-up for our area is in Madison on May 3-4, 2024. Ms. Orloff has a copy of their flier.

-Special Projects – Will we have special project requests for 2024, for example any Eagle Scout candidate projects? Do we want to think about other types of special projects to assist with?

Old Business:

-School Project Update, Pollinator Garden at Ridgedale Middle School – Spring 2024 will bring more activity to the Pollinator Garden. This winter Mr. Eggleston, the head of the Botany Club, will oversee the planting of winter seedlings. Prior to the holidays, Ms. Orloff purchased a rain barrel needed for the garden. In the springtime, fencing poles and a gate need to be built, and black cable ties and hosing need to be purchased. All of this is in anticipation of spring planting. The EC would like to create a written agreement with RMS ensuring the students take responsibility for their garden, and the EC will act as monitors for the first year. We should also discuss a dedication date and potential signage for the garden.

-SGL General Update – For 2023, \$20,000 in total was spent with Princeton Hydro for all its services at SGL. The DEP grant project will include water quality testing and alum treatments will likely be deferred at the lake in 2024, so the EC funds budgeted for those services can be used for other lake management projects in 2024. For example, sediment testing is \$6,700, wetlands readjusting and moving the islands is \$3,500, and phragmite spraying (with herbicide) to kill the roots is \$6,000. Other potential projects could be a fish survey and a restocking of the lake. Mr. Dvorkin and Mr. Wisniewski will set up a meeting with Princeton Hydro to discuss our options.

-Second Kiosk at SGL – The second kiosk is built and in storage. We hope to install it this spring prior to Earth Day. The kiosk should include an updated map of SGL and pictures.

-Signage at SGL – The new signage is here and looks great. This is to assist the public with walking the path around the lake. The installation of the two signs will be happening soon.

-Budget – The 2024 EC budget will be approved in February. Ms. Orloff will be giving us the final 2023 budget report at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.