

FAIR LAWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOV. 2, 2005

Wendy Dabney convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Members present were: Wendy Dabney, Mary Burdick, Jennifer Greenwood, Todd Newman, Jack O'Neil, Joe Pineiro, Elaine Winshell, Peter Kortwright, and Carol Wagner. Marty Etlar and Gina Bernstein were absent.

Guests included Maureen Moriarty, and delegates from the Memorial Middle School Environmental Club and River Walk Project = Craig Cohen, Peter Arts, Emilis de Luccia, Victoria Carney and her father Mr. Carney.

The minutes of October 2005 were accepted on a motion by Joe Pineiro and a second by Jennifer Greenwood.

CORRESPONDENCE =

An ANJEC Memo was received regarding protecting streams and neighboring properties.

A telephone call was received from Elmwood Park resident Laura Cole advising that Marcal received a first violation notice and fine resulting from odor complaints. The Bergen County Health Commission should be called directly with complaints rather than NJDEP. They will come to the property and take visual and "nose" readings. Complainants must sign their complaints and be willing to testify if they expect results.

Elmwood Park is planning on establishing an environmental commission.

REPORTS =

Health Dept. – Carol Wagner distributed her report to the members. NJDEP notified her that monitoring well permit installation was approved for the Gulf Station on Fair Lawn Avenue and for Fisher Scientific. Renco Finishing was inspected by the Bureau of Water Compliance, and found to be in compliance. Carol also showed the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's new brochure "Messy Marvin's Learning Corner" prepared for children.

PLANNING BOARD – Peter Kortwright advised that the Malinchek property site (corner of Harristown Rd & Lincoln Avenue) has been approved for 7 units rather than 8. It has been rezoned for mixed use. A decorative flower retailer next to Blockbusters on Route 4 has been approved. Fair Lawn has not submitted the stormwater plan to the county, but it will be submitted in a week or two. The Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) should be included in the master plan so that developers will be made aware. Fair Lawn has to comply with affordable housing. A proposal needs to be done.

Perhaps a location can be found “off site”, but in Bergen County. Peter advised that the housing is not just for poor people, it is also for medium income and seniors. Council of Affordable Housing (COAH) is now on its third round.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN – Wendy advised that this 5-year plan has been submitted with her input including education, etc. It was returned to the borough for corrections. The man hired to do this has not yet revised it, but we have been informed that it is in the process of being done. Wendy has not seen the final product. Elaine Winshell moved that we revise the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI). Jennifer Greenwood seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Help will be needed to prepare this. It will be referred to an open space sub-committee to decide the scope and seek information on funding. We should have this started by the January meeting. Community volunteers will be sought. Mary Burdick discussed the lack of aesthetic character of the large homes known as “Mc Mansions”. Fair Lawn does not have an architectural committee, although Radburn does. It was suggested that we recommend to Marty Etlar that the borough council form an Architectural Standards Committee. Joe Pineiro will obtain further information on this.

ADOPT-A-PARK- Todd Newman is planning a cleanup for Saturday, Nov. 6th. At 10 a.m. Of two trees planted two Arbor Days ago, only one is living due to vandalism. Memorial Park is a “favorite” place for vandalism. Todd spoke with Ron Lotterman, and was advised that recycling containers are being studied. Individual containers are more suitable than having one unit with compartments for all recyclables. The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission has done a lot of cleaning up at the Lyncrest Wildlife Center site. Paths have been widened and chips have been put down. A \$250 grant has been received. The pond and streams are full, and clean up would be better planned when the water level is lower. The area is fed by five different storm drains. A bridge and boardwalk are needed. The Lyncrest Wildlife Center should be part of the Adopt-A-Park program. A brochure should be published to acquaint neighbors that the area is a park.

ZONING BOARD – Todd Newman advised that the Naugle House application has been denied. Wendy stated that a petition to make an application for Green Acres to preserve the Naugle House has not been received by the county. The Historic Commission does not have the power of condemnation since it is strictly an advisory body to provide unique insight to the borough council.

RIVER WALK – Guest Craig Cohen, a science instructor at Memorial Middle School, discussed the River Walk Project. Vicki Carney referred to it as the “Voice of the River”. It is an educational site and used as an outdoor

classroom. Bob De Vita helped with the trail construction. "Weed Block" has been laid down. A 16' x 12' observation deck has also been built by Emil De Luccia. A ceremony to signal the start of the River Walk Project is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 1:15 pm. Next Spring there will be another event to signal the end of the season. Environmental Club advisors Craig Cohen, Peter Arts, and Emil De Luccia suggested presenting a program with visuals to the borough council during a regularly scheduled council public meeting. The advisors and student members of the club were asked to return and make a presentation to the commission at our next meeting on Dec. 7. The guests were thanked for appearing.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. The Open Space Referendum on the November ballot was discussed. Jennifer Greenwood moved that our commission go on record as supporting the referendum. Todd Newman seconded the motion which passed 7 to 2. Elaine Winshell voted no because it lacked a historical preservation clause. Mary Burdick voted no because the numbers do not add up.
2. Members of the Fair Lawn Historic Sites Preservation Corp. (Cadmus House) appeared at the Tuesday's Borough council work session. The members asked that the 1987 resolution creating a Historic Preservation Commission be enacted. They will continue to press toward this goal.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20. The next meeting will be held on Dec. 7.

Respectfully submitted

Jack O'Neil