

Borough of Fair Lawn
Environmental Commission

February 4, 2009

Attendance: Wendy Dabney, Emil DeLuccia, Phil Cassidy, Gina Bernstein, Nancy Sperling, Joseph Mele, Deputy Mayor Joseph Tedeschi, and Health Officer Carol Wagner.

Also present were: Kim Wei, Kathy Meneghin, Julia Burmistrova and Kelsey Kahn.

Chairperson Wendy Dabney called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

Chairperson Dabney asked members to review the Borough Code on the Environmental Commission and the code requirements of the commission.

Reports:

Health Officer Wagner gave a report on the NJDEP Correspondence and Oversight of environmental issues in January 2009.

Chairperson Dabney explained the history of the Fair Lawn Well Field.

Deputy Mayor Tedeschi informed the Fair Lawn Environmental Commission members that the Chairperson needs to send a letter to the Mayor and Council when requesting changes to the membership. This includes the shifting of an "Alternate" member to "Regular" member status, when a "Regular" member leaves the appointment.

Emil DeLuccia spoke about the school initiatives regarding the environment and the Passaic River as well as the 2nd Annual Canoe Race.

Kathy Maneghin, a teacher at Fair Lawn High School, explained about the Fair Lawn High School gardening project and the Environmental Club. They would like to work on the overgrown area behind Lyncrest School. Wendy Dabney suggested a vegetable garden for the Food Pantry.

At a Board of Education meeting on Thursday, February 5, there was a demonstration on Solar Energy.

Phil Cassidy, the Planning Board Liaison, stated that applications that need environmental input would be sent to the Environmental Commission to review, but not conceptual. There is no mention of discussion about green initiatives. The Master Plan Amendment says "use green technology," but does not provide specifics of green construction. The next meeting of the Planning Board is on February 9 at 7 pm in the Municipal Building.

The Master Plan is going to be updated this year. Highland Park is an example of a green community. Wendy Dabney suggested using Highland Park's plan to draft a plan for Fair Lawn.

The committee's discussion focused on promoting the use of green construction. Wendy Dabney requested that Kim Wei provide the contact information for communities and groups with information on "green building." Wendy Dabney also recommended that Deputy Mayor Tedeschi push for revisions to the Master Plan. Deputy Mayor suggested that the Environmental Commission send a memo to the Mayor and Council recommending the same.

There is a cellular tower being put in the DPW complex. The DEP is requiring that the tower be moved. Therefore, the tower at the DPW complex is only temporary.

The Helen Traun Nursery School had a NJDEP oversight due to contamination from shredded tires. Health Officer Wagner reported that follow up testings were clean. The property owner wants to improve the property and is up for review in front of the Planning Board.

Chairperson Dabney spoke about the Open Space committee. There is money from Green Acres funding and it is important that the Borough shows that they have a definite plan to purchase open space. The property next to the firehouse on George Street is going forward, but it needs Zoning approval to change the property line.

Chairperson Dabney spoke about a form that Hasbrouck Heights is using as a check off list of all the Boards and Commissions to be considered when an issue is going before the Planning Board.

Deputy Mayor Tedeschi looked into procedures to be followed for the operation of the Fair Lawn Environmental Commission meetings and the membership appointment process.

Chairperson Dabney asked Kim Wei to give a presentation on leaf blower legislation, such as Montclair and Maplewood ordinances, so that leaf blowing is allowed in a portion of the spring and fall and that contractors are not allowed to create pollution and excessive noise. Sample ordinances go by manufacturer noise levels stated for each leaf blower. There was discussion about making recommendations to the Mayor and Council to consider drafting an ordinance to regulate commercial use of leaf blowers in Fair Lawn.

A motion was made by Gina Bernstein, seconded by Nancy Sperling to make the recommendation to the Mayor and Council. All present were in favor.

Chairperson Dabney asked Kim Wei to provide the two ordinances from the other towns and she will send them to the Mayor and Council with recommendations from the Environmental Commission.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Phil Cassidy, seconded by Nancy Sperling to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 pm.