

Borough of Fair Lawn
Environmental Commission

June 3, 2009

Chairperson Dabney called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Present: Wendy Dabney, Nancy Sperling, Phil Cassidy, Health Officer Carol Wagner and Kim Wei, Joe Mele.

Absent: Deputy Mayor Joseph Tedeschi, Gina Bernstein, Emil DeLuccia and Atiqaur Rahman.

Minutes:

On a motion by Nancy Sperling, seconded by Phil Cassidy, the minutes from the previous meeting were approved with changes. All in favor.

Correspondence: None.

Reports:

Health Department: See handout report. C. Wagner gave report on all correspondence received during May 2009 re: environmental issues involving NL DEP oversight.

Water Quality Team: Chairperson Dabney mentioned about the Sierra Club notification regarding a mass in the Pacific Ocean that is refuse (mostly plastic) that is larger than the state of Texas. The new storm drains is an attempt to restrict litter and refuse from going into the streams. DPW may know which basins have the most debris. Health Officer Wagner will ask which drains.

Chairperson Dabney reported that as a street is graded for paving new grates over storm sewers are installed. Chairperson Dabney asked the FLEC is they would like to research these new types of drain grates. Chairperson Dabney suggested getting regulations and put a packet together for the Mayor and Council with intent to fund such a project. There was a motion by Kim Wei, seconded by Joseph Mele to explore the issue and present it to the Mayor and Council and to get Fair Lawn into compliance with NJ DEP Storm water Guidelines and to accelerate compliance. N. Sperling will research. All were in favor.

Planning Board: Phil Cassidy reported that no information packet was given to the liaison. There is a disc on Oceanos expansion, but there is no further progress at Planning Board.

Educational Outreach: Chairperson Dabney raised the issue of asking Ron Lotterman to change the name from Litter Marshall to Stream Stewards.

Nancy Sperling went to a webinar on Effective Environmental communication, laws, power responsibilities, build a network to the Planning Board, to do an annual report on activities, assisting and developing environmental ordinances, educate the public on environmental concerns and will bring in information on educational websites. Nancy Sperling will e-mail the links to FLEC and will bring it to a meeting to show it from her laptop.

There was much discussion on writing a short blurb on environmental concerns such as open space and direct readers to go to the FLEC webpage on the town website.

Nancy Sperling also mentioned other suggestions learned at the webinar and gave an example of how to employ awareness such as sponsor an open space photo contest and establish a green team. Chairperson Dabney designed a bulletin board of the FLEC “Green Team” and FLEC goals.

Chairperson Dabney nominated Joseph Mele as Vice Chairperson. All were in favor.

Chairperson Dabney nominated Kim Wei as Secretary and Webmaster for Environmental topics to put onto the FLEC webpage. All were in favor.

Nancy Sperling also mentioned doing an environmental road show and invite other Environmental Commissions and have the program in the fall. Chairperson Dabney suggested a Stream Storm water Management group. What can we get onto the FLEC webpage? The River Walk and Bike Route were suggested. Chairperson Dabney suggested having an environmental art show in the spring. The theme should be Fair Lawn’s environment.

Chairperson Dabney announced that Fair Lawn was awarded \$7,000 to do the Environmental Resource Inventory. It is recommended to have monitoring test wells put into the ERI map. Michael Hakim (the consultant) believes that \$20,000 is needed for Fair Lawn.

Nancy Sperling handed out a write up from a child whose Bat Mitzvah was environmental projects. It will give ideas to Environmental Clubs.

Council Liaison: Deputy Mayor Tedeschi was not present.

Open Space: Chairperson Dabney reported that the Mayor and Council sent a letter to residents looking to sell property which would be turned over to green acres. No response was received. The space next to the George Street Firehouse will be open space. Open Space money is available to purchase property. Chairperson Dabney discussed several spots in town that would be ideal for open space such as the Naugle property and, Daly Field, however the property owners are not interested in selling the property to the town.

Old Business:

Earth Day Recycle Bags: A thank you letter was sent to Shop Rite. Nancy Sperling could not get bags from Whole Foods. Joseph Mele will send a thank you to Stop n Shop.

Euro Cars (Scholastic Bus) Site Plan Review and letter drafted by J. Mele on behalf of the FLEC: Joseph Mele plans to attend the June 15 Planning Board meeting. He drafted a letter and sent it to Ann Peck, Zoning Board Secretary. Chairperson Dabney forwarded the letter to Todd Neuman, Zoning Chairperson.

River Regatta: June 6, 2009 at 10 am to 1 pm. Set up time is 9 am. Volunteering are Joseph Mele, Chairperson Dabney and Health Officer Wagner.

Well Field Plan: Chairperson Dabney contacted NJDEP and the plan was supposedly mailed out May 26 but not yet received. Information on a CD is expected to be received. Chairperson Dabney is working with Ken Garrison to physically walk/look at site properties in the Well Field area and to identify property owners interested in vapor intrusion testing.

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Next Meeting: July 1, 2009 at 7:30 pm

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kim Wei, seconded by Nancy Sperling, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.