

Environmental Commission of Atlantic Highlands (AHEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 – 7:30 PM

Attendees:

France Karras, Acting Chair (FK), Wanda Kelley (WK), Jane Austin (JA), Don Gates (DG), Mike Curry (MC), Peter Doyle (PD), Ed Cetron (EC)

Public Present:

Manda Gorsegner of 88 E GARFIELD AVE

Mark Fisher of 91 3RD AVE

Larry Goldberg of 85 SOUTH AVE

Minutes

October 18, 2016 minutes were reviewed and approved by voice vote with MK, DG and EC abstaining.

Army Corps Study Many Mind Creek

FK stated that JK indicated that the study is progressing. Adam has been responding to a steady stream of requests for documents, including maps. JA summarized a status update email she received. The message indicated that they are about half way through so hopefully we will be hearing from them soon.

DG reported that Many Mind Creek has been flooding recently upstream during rain storms. He believes it is due to run off from the new development up stream. He reported seeing soil and sediment turning the water red and leaving soil deposits running along Sears Avenue, into the creek and under Route 36. But the cause is outside of the scope of the Army corps study.

Natural Resource Inventory

JK has not contacted ANJEC regarding the cost of obtaining professional help to assist on an update. FK circulated information on the November 29th ANJEC conference on ERIs. WK reported that she still has not received any info on historical buildings from the historical society but discovered that Chris is the best person to speak to and is at the Strauss Mansion almost every day.

Lenape Woods Fall trail maintenance day:

MC to survey trail conditions and will contact the commission via email if work is needed. DG mentioned trees and branches are down near south end entrance from Washington. He also mentioned that several rails are missing from the bridge (8 or 9 of them). Member of the public, Manda Gorsegner, mentioned that we should publicize trail maintenance days because she has never known about them but lives nearby, walks the trails with her daughter and would be happy to participate. She suggested posting fliers in 1st avenue shops to spread the word. The committee will also ask the administrator to post it on the borough website if/when a date and time is established.

Bayshore trail repairs

FK stated that JK indicated that the project is on hold till the County can satisfy concerns of the Bayshore Sewage Authority assurance that its outfall pipe will not be damaged. County trying to buy insurance.

Borough Master Plan

EC reported that the master plan is moving forward and the Planning Board will have chapters for the Environmental Commission to review and comment on very soon. They are making many significant changes to the plan due resulting from the implications of Hurricane Sandy and rising water levels due to climate change as well as other factors.

Field Trip - County Recycling Center

FK reminded everyone that November 15 is "America Recycles Day" and gave a follow up to the brief discussion regarding a field trip at the October Meeting. She had spoken to Fran Metzger, District Recycling Coordinator for the Dept. of Public Works & Engineering at the Monmouth County Reclamation Center about the possibly touring the county recycling facility. Currently the county is shipping their recyclables to a facility in Passaic but is looking into building a new reclamation facility for the county in the future. In the meantime, Ms. Metzger suggested touring the Ocean County Facility which she said is state of the art and offers educational tours to small groups.

Other Business

Member of the Public, Mark Fisher, asked about the 29 barrels on the abandoned lot on 1st Ave near the elementary school. PD will contact the Borough Administrator and ask for an update on the status and contents of the barrels at the next borough council meeting.

Member of the Public, Larry Goldberg, volunteered his graphic design services to the Commission

PD thanked them for their attendance and suggested that if any members of the public are interested in joining a commission that they can fill out an application for appointment at borough hall.

Meeting Adjourned.