

2018 Environmental Commission Report to Mayor & Borough Council

Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Lenape Woods - Steward Larry Goldberg monitored the condition of the woods and reported to the EC on a regular basis. Larry and borough employees removed several downed trees from the trails during the year. John Reith of the State Forestry Service made a presentation to the EC on the benefits of a controlled burn. He recommended that a forestry management plan be prepared before considering a controlled burn. James Krauss, Larry and members of the Shade Tree Commission met with Brian McDonald of the State Forestry Service to discuss the need for a forestry management plan.

Waterfront - Steward Paula Woods monitored the Borough's waterfront and reported to the EC on a regular basis. Paula served as the Beach Captain for Clean Ocean action beach sweeps in town on April 21 and October 20. Paula also arranged for water tests in the harbor, Avenue A beach and the two creeks.

Planning Board - The EC monitored planning board applications at 25 Bayside Drive (slope issues), 158 First Avenue (clean-up issues), McConnell Tract (development proposal) and 233 East Highland Avenue (new residence). The EC presented the planning board with a Licensed Site Remediation Professional report and asked that construction at 158 First Avenue be carefully monitored. The planning board included that requirement in its approval of the project. Concern was expressed to the planning board about storm water runoff at 233 East Highland as the lot sits uphill of the Gawen Road entrance to Lenape Woods.

Bayshore Watershed Council - On a rotating basis, members of the EC attended the meetings and reported back to the EC.

Monmouth County Environmental Council - France Karras an EC member and a county council member, reported to the EC on a regular basis.

McConnell Tract - Adopted a resolution urging the borough to pursue a plan to establish a public park on the McConnell Tract instead of a development.

Hilton Station & Hudson Springs - Continued to meet with residents regarding the condition of the two sites and relayed some maintenance needs, as well as concern about the wall at the Springs, to the borough. Agreed to sponsor a Spring clean-up of overgrown vegetation at Hudson Springs.

Watershed Ambassador - In connection with Earth Day, arranged for environmental presentations at the grammar, middle and high schools on March 27.

Film One - Had an EC table at the event, informed citizens about environmental issues and recycling, and raffled off a recycling bin in exchange for e-mail addresses for notification of beach sweeps and trail maintenance.

Sustainable Jersey - In coordination with the Borough's Green Team provided documentation for successful recertification in the Sustainable Jersey program.

Plastics - Supported a "Skip the Straw" program. Recommended that the borough adopt an ordinance banning single use plastic bags if the proposed state legislation doesn't pass.

Ongoing issues - Monitored and discussed various issues including the updated master plan, offshore drilling, a butterfly garden, an invasive species ordinance, the Highlands seawall proposal, Army Corps proposals for NY harbor, the Raritan pipeline proposal, the US Geological Survey and leaking underground storage tanks at Wesley Avenue and the Race Star gas station.