



Borough of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Monthly Meeting – Minutes

December 19, 2024 – 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT	Sandy Redder (Chairperson); Gary Szalc (Vice Chairperson); Suzanne Sanschagrin (Secretary); Carol Chimento; Leslie Krone-Speck (Planning Board Liaison); Andrea Parra; Phyllis Sandroock; Dave Schwartzberg;
MEMBERS ABSENT	MaryAnne StaRosa; Patricia Walsh (Borough Council Liaison);
GUESTS	Andy, Chris, James & Paul Allen
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Open Public Meetings Act The opening public meetings act was read and the meeting came to order at 7:04 PM. Minutes: November minutes accepted. Membership Update: Expiring terms and Officers

Nature Center

DISCUSSION
- Nature Center report (Phyllis) Update: Tree down near Terrill Bible Chapel. Tree was dead. Contacted public works to see if they can remove downed tree. FEC recommends having a tree expert review the trees within the FNC to ensure no one could be injured by other trees if they were to fall; path is further eroding at entrance to point where liner is now visible – need solution to this problem. Birds are being fed and are eating substantial amounts of bird seed. - Geocache has been replaced and is now more in keeping with the nature of the area.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Commission Projects

- Eagle Scout Project - replace about 50 ft of the wooden walkway at the Fanwood Nature Center, replacing the bench and clearing the area of invasive plants - Paul Allen (Dave) **Update:** Proposal has been signed off by FEC and is being sent for approval at Patriots Path Council.
- Eagle Scout Project - NC Bike racks (Dave): **Update: Project approval provided to Scout by Dave**
- Eagle Scout Project – Borough Hall Demonstration Garden – Alex H. (Suzanne) **Update: Leslie has provided information to Alex on rain gardens & has reached out for a coach.**
- Need to create checklist/guideline for FEC on Scout projects (Dave) **Update: Work to begin shortly.**
- Borough Hall Gardens – (Leslie, Sandy) **Update: Mulching and weeding done in early November. Gardens to be fallow until spring.**
 - **Rain Garden: See above.**
 - **Pollinator and Monarch:**

Old Business

DISCUSSION

- Green Team Updates – (Andrea) For MLK Day of service, toiletry collection for Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church in Plainfield; chair is stepping down in end of month; looking into other opportunities beyond Sustainable Jersey
- EC Website: <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/environmental-commission/> Bird house building pictures, Ribbon cutting, Youth Day, etc. **Sandy to prepare** write up of borough hall gardens.
- Budget Update (Trish): No update. Need guidance for 2025 budget from Trish.

New Business

DISCUSSION
2025 Projects – Winter Sowing (Sandy/Leslie Jan/Feb), GBBC (Sandy Feb 15-17, 2025), Spring Garden Cleanup & Tours (Leslie), NC Trail Maintenance Day (2 weeks after Clean Communities Day), Youth Day (Suzanne), etc. Bring ideas and potential dates to next meeting. Additions: Meditation events (Andrea) - Discuss preparation of letter to borough regarding need for additional leaf pickup after weather has warmed to 50 to allow for better protection of pollinators in gardens. – Dave/Suzanne to discuss; Leslie to follow up to add this to green tips from Green Team as well to assist in education.

Review of Plans

DISCUSSION	
Links to applications: https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/	Comments:
Chicken coop	Proper manure handling; rodent control

FEC recommends Borough renews its membership in the Rahway River Association as has occurred in the past 5 years. The cost for 2025 is \$250.00.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.