FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISION

Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2026

Members Present: Mary Orloff, Rich Hause, Brian Bill, Nicholas Cicarelli, Sid Dvorkin, Ed Franko, and Caitlin Kendall.

Members Absent: Kathleen Riordan and Stan Wisnewski.

Borough Engineering Department Liaison: Kayla Kaplan, Borough Engineer, did not attend.

Presiding: Mary Orloff, Chair

Abbreviations Defined:

*EC = Environmental Commission

*CMA = Conservation Management Area

*CS = Contaminated Sites

*NJ DEP = New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

*SGL = Spring Garden Lake

*RMP = Recreation Master Plan

*FBP = Fish Brook Park

*F&W = Fish and Wildlife

*TT = Traction Trail

Meeting called to order at 6:59 p.m.

Sunshine Law – Open Public Meeting Act Announcement:

Adequate notice of this meeting was given by filing with the Borough Clerk, posting on the Borough's website calendar of meeting dates, and posting in the Florham Park EC Facebook Group.

The meeting opened to the public at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Hank Allen was present to observe the meeting.

Meeting Closed to the Public at 7:01 p.m.

The January minutes were approved unanimously, and the February minutes were approved unanimously with updates.

New Business:

-GSWA Native Plant Sale – The Great Swamp Watershed Association is holding their yearly native plant sale in April, from April 1st through 21st. Mr. Hause will assist with pick-up of the plants. Volunteers will also be needed for the May 2nd distribution in Madison.

Old Business:

-NJDEP Grant – The permits are moving forward and are under technical review for the installation of the alum pump distribution in SGL.

-NJUCF (New Jersey Urban Community Forestry) Tree Survey – Ms. Kaplan needs volunteer assistance with a townwide tree survey of trees on public property in the borough. This is required for FP's liability insurance now that NJUCF has updated their requirements, and there are 27 miles of roads in FP. This survey is required for 2026 but does not have to be completed this calendar year. Ms. Orloff, Mr. Franko, and Mr. Hause volunteered to survey trees beginning last fall. Two more volunteers need training, bring the volunteer count to five. There will also be an article in the next quarterly newsletter to help solicit additional volunteers to survey the trees.

-Earth Day at SGL - Earth Day events at SGL will be on Saturday, April 18th from 10 am to 2 pm. Activities will include planting in the pollinator garden, planting in the biodiversity area, picking up trash, and spreading woodchips. We have up to $2,000 to spend on purchasing plants for planting. Volunteers are needed; the event will be advertised in the FP Eagle and on social media. Fliers will be in both kiosks as well. The check-in table will be at the East Madison entrance.

-Arbor Day Sapling Giveaway - Arbor Day is on Friday, April 24th and we'll hold our annual sapling giveaway at the FP Library from 10 am to 12 pm. Ms. Orloff and Mr. Franko will oversee the giveaway, and Ms. Kendall will join them. Tree varieties include white oak, eastern redbud, and grey birch.

-SGL and Planting Updates – De Martinis will be planting trees at SGL prior to Earth Day. A sign was also put up for the fishing line disposal at SGL. This is to kindly remind anyone fishing where to properly dispose of the broken lines at the first kiosk closest to the East Madison entrance.

-Speaker Series – We continue discuss ideas for speakers on environmental topics. For example, a bird sanctuary in Millburn or information on pollinators and how to attract them. Perhaps co-hosting a speaker with one of our neighboring EC's is a good solution.

-Ridgedale School Pollinator Garden – Mr. Hause will be reaching out to Mr. Eggleston regarding what supplies may be needed for the pollinator garden. Dr. Caponegro supports the vision of the students maintaining the garden to foster environmental stewardship.

-Frog Pond at Germanhousen Park – We hope to refresh this area in 2026. Mr. Hause will diagram and map the frog pond at Germanhousen Park.

-EC Budget – The EC budget for 2026 is on track to being approved.

-Social media – Please send anything we wish to post to Ms. Kendall. In early April, reminders will be posted about Earth Day and Arbor Day activities.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.