

FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2026

Members Present: Mary Orloff, Rich Hause, Brian Bill, Nicholas Cicarelli, Ed Franko, Caitlin Kendall, and Stan Wisnewski. Sid Dvorkin and Kathleen Riordan attended via phone.

Members Absent: none.

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 7:01 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 7:01 p.m.

Meeting Closed to the Public at 7:02 p.m.

The March minutes were approved unanimously. The April meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

New Business:

-GSWA Stream Assessment – The Great Swamp Watershed Association is having volunteers assist with assessing tributaries of the Passaic River in Morris County; the Passaic River is 82 miles long and parts of it require cleanup. Ms. Orloff and Mr. House have begun volunteering on this project.

-Liaisons – For the time being, there will be no EC member as a liaison on the Borough Planning Board. Additionally, we believe the new Assistant Engineer will be our EC liaison at our meetings. As Ms. Kaplan is now the Borough Engineer, she is unable to attend our meetings.

Old Business:

-NJDEP Grant – A shed for alum pump distribution will be installed by Princeton Hydro. JCP&L will be connecting electricity to the shed to run the pump. We are awaiting approval for the alum dosing. More updates will be given at the June meeting.

-Morris County Trail Grant – The trail grant for SGL is moving forward; we're in the design and consulting phase. A new survey has been completed on the site which includes topographical information and the placement of trees. This information is to help determine what type of path is needed, for example pea gravel, heavier gravel, boardwalk, etc. The path may also vary in different parts of the lake due to the landscape. There is an upcoming meeting with the design company to review.

-NJUCF (New Jersey Urban Community Forestry) Tree Survey – A townwide tree survey of trees on public property in the borough was begun in the fall. 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. The borough recently brought in a firm to do a week of surveying, otherwise surveying has been conducted by volunteers. Ms. Orloff, Mr. Franko, and Mr. Hause have been volunteering since the fall. Two more volunteers need training, bring the volunteer count to five.

-Earth Day at SGL - Earth Day events at SGL were held on Saturday, April 18th. Thanks to all the hard-working volunteers who assisted, including the Boy Scouts. A lot of planting was done in the pollinator garden, wood chips were laid, and much trash was picked up.

-Arbor Day Sapling Giveaway - Arbor Day was Friday, April 24th and we held our annual sapling giveaway at the FP Library. Thanks to all who stopped by to pick up saplings to plant.

-SGL and Planting Updates – With our Earth Day activities, over 17 shrubs were planted at the lake. De Martinis planted our trees and did some remediation work afterwards. Fencing is being put around the new shrubs and trees to protect them from the deer. A motion was approved to spend up to \$500.00 for additional fencing materials and posts, as well as additional measuring circumference tools for this project. Additionally, we will investigate getting a plaque made for a bench and a tree at SGL in memory of Mr. Bill's in-laws and in honor of former, longtime EC member Marie Cueman who moved out of state.

-Invasive Species at SGL - Ms. Orloff and Mr. Hause recently took a tour of the lake with Mike VanClef, who is part of the NJ Invasive Species Task Force to review what invasives we have there. We will be getting a map of where the invasives are located. Currently phragmites are fairly under control, however we have invasive hemlock to remove which is also poisonous.

-Floating Wetlands at SGL – Mr. Dvorkin will be following up with Princeton Hydro on this project. We have a P.O. approved and monies encumbered from last year to purchase two new floating wetlands for SGL.

-Speaker Series – We continue discuss ideas for speakers on environmental topics. Please let Ms. Orloff know if you have any recommendations.

-Ridgedale School Pollinator Garden – No updates. The garden is doing okay overall but needs pruning and a plan for summertime.

-Frog Pond at Germanhousen Park – We want to refresh this area in 2026 as the park needs cleanup. Mr. Cicarelli will reach out to the DPW about removing the invasive bushes to start.

-2026 EC Budget – The EC budget for \$30,000 was approved for 2026.

-Social media – Please send anything we wish to post to Ms. Kendall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.