

FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2026

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

Members Absent: Sid Dvorkin and Ed Franko.

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 7:00 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.

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

The May minutes were approved unanimously with corrections.

New Business:

-Intern – Approval has been granted for a shared Engineering and EC intern/s for summer 2027.

Old Business:

-NJDEP Grant – A shed for alum pump distribution was installed by Princeton Hydro to the right of the existing storage shed. JCP&L will be connecting electricity to the shed to run the pump by July 8th. We'll

need to get clarity on who's budget the electricity will be coming from. Relatedly, a future contract may need to be set up with Princeton Hydro for service and/or pump inspection. We'll need to request operational costs from them for the pump to plan accordingly. Monies may need to be allocated yearly.

-Morris County Trail Grant – The trail grant for SGL is moving forward; we're in the design and consulting phase. The survey of the site (which includes topographical information and the placement of trees) will be republished and reworked to assist with obtaining permits.

-SGL and Planting Updates - This confirms that shrubs planted on Earth Day have been protected from deer. We'll also investigate if the viburnum needs protection too. De Martinis did some remediation work and moved the trees planted. No mounds were created at the base of the trees and the willows were wrapped. The remaining new trees will need fence wrapping in for the fall. Mr. Bill confirmed the pollinator garden is doing well. He will be planting four additional trays of plants there.

Dedications – Reviewed plaque options 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. Everyone preferred the bronze plaques. These will be ordered in August, so they are ready for the fall.

-Frog Pond at Germershausen Park – We want to refresh this area in 2026 as the park needs cleanup. Mr. Cicarelli will follow up with DPW regarding the request to remove the invasive bushes there.

-Floating Wetlands at SGL –We have a P.O. approved and monies encumbered from last year to purchase two new floating wetlands for SGL. Mr. Dvorkin is following up with Princeton Hydro on this project. Need to confirm if there are two or three existing wetlands and if we can remove these ourselves; they are full of invasive phragmites.

-Invasive Species at SGL – Reviewed findings from Mike VanClef, who is part of the NJ Invasive Species Task Force. He created a report and map of where the invasives are located at SGL. The priorities are removing the phragmites, as well as the poisonous hemlock and Japanese snowball. It's also important that more native shrubs are planted to help control the invasives. Various questions were raised about remediation methods. Ms. Orloff will be following up on our action plan.

-Ridgedale School Pollinator Garden – Mr. Hause confirmed the garden is being maintained. During the summertime, New Horizons Camp will maintain the garden. There is currently poison ivy that needs to be remediated.

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

There are no EC meetings scheduled for July and August. Meetings resume in September.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.