FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2026

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

Members Absent: Brian Bill, Sid Dvorkin, Ed Franko, 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 7:04 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 7:04 p.m.

Meeting Closed to the Public at 7:05 p.m.

The June minutes were approved unanimously with corrections.

New Business:

-2027 Budget – Mr. Cicarelli will be submitting the EC's 2027 budget request for $30,000 in October 2026.

-Kiosk at the FP Community Garden –Currently there is no kiosk at the Community Garden, but one could be ordered prefabricated or built on site. It would be helpful to have a kiosk there to share

information on composting and other environmental related information, like the kiosks at SGL. It would be desirable for the kiosk to have one glass side that is locked and one cork side that is open. Perhaps the funding of this project could be shared with the Recreation Committee.

-Data Centers – Hanover Township is taking a proactive stance regarding data centers in the municipality, and their EC was involved in public forums over the summer. Their Township Committee is working to adopt regulations to minimize negative impacts from large-scale data processing facilities, while distinguishing them from corporate IT or computer offices. As an EC, we should become more informed about this growing topic and how it could possibly impact FP in the future. It could even be used as a speaker topic for the community.

-FP Garden Club Speaker – The Garden Club will be hosting a speaker on Wednesday, October 21st during their regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. The topic is rain barrels and rain gardens.

-Emmett Park Cleanup 2027 – We'd like to hold another garbage cleanup at Emmett Park in March 2027. Let's discuss it in more detail at the October meeting to start planning.

-EC Shed at SGL – The shed needs poison ivy remediation.

Old Business:

-Frog Pond at Germershausen Park – We want to refresh this area and the park needs cleanup. Mr. Cicarelli is following up with DPW regarding the previous request to remove the invasive bushes there. Moving forward, the EC would like to work with a landscape designer to beautify the space and put in new, native shrubs.

-NJDEP Grant – A shed for alum pump distribution was installed by Princeton Hydro to the right of the existing storage shed. The new shed has been set up with electricity, but we need clarification if the alum pump has started. Additionally, questions remain about yearly maintenance and what monies the EC needs to allocate for this. Ms. Orloff will contact Princeton Hydro to get more information and keep Borough Engineer Ms. Kaplan and Assistant Engineer Mr. Raymond informed.

-Morris County Trail Grant – The trail grant for SGL is moving forward; the tentative design is completed with the French and Parrello Firm. It includes a small boardwalk near two of the waterfront houses, and the rest of the trail will be packed gravel for appropriate drainage. The design is being reviewed for permits, including a preliminary site plan review with NJDEP.

-SGL and Planting Updates – An old glory maple will be planted at SGL, paid for by a borough resident. Additionally, rigid fencing was sized and installed around the newer plantings. More cleanup of overgrowth and weeds is needed this fall. We'd like to get assistance from local companies needing volunteer opportunities to work with Mr. Bill on cleanup. There is an open PO for $500.00 for any supplies needed.

-Invasive Species Review, SGL – The results of the NJ Invasive Species Task Force findings were shared with Princeton Hydro in a meeting. A plan is being created to remove the priority invasive species, including Tree of Heaven, which are also a haven for the invasive Lantern Flies.

-Floating Wetlands at SGL –The two, new floating wetlands are installed. They are anchored and tethered to better keep them in place. We'll pay attention to whether the new alum pump will move the

wetlands around the lake at all. The old wetlands, covered in phragmites, are still there. A plan for removal, if needed, is being decided. Some of the lake wildlife has been using the old wetlands for nesting.

Dedications – The bronze plaque in memory of Mr. Bill's in-laws was ordered. Ms. Orloff is following up with former longtime EC member Marie Cueman on her dates of service with the EC. Afterward, we will order the second bronze plaque to honor her service.

-Ridgedale School Pollinator Garden – Now that school is back in session, Mr. Hause will be following up on the status of the garden for fall.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.