

FLORHAM PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2026

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

Members Absent: Brian Bill.

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 7:03 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. No public was present.

Meeting Closed to the Public at 7:04 p.m.

The November minutes were approved unanimously with updates.

New Business:

-EC Membership Change - Sid Dvorkin was not reappointed to the EC for another term. Nor has a replacement been named yet, so the commission is short of one member.

-EC Officers Appointed for 2026 – Mary Orloff – Chair, Rich Hause – Vice Chair, and Caitlin Kendall – Secretary.

-New State Legislation – NJ created a State Invasive Species Task Force. They are updating the list of “do not plant” species and these species will be banned for sale in NJ. They are also creating a strike team.

-2026 EC Events – Earth Day and Arbor Day activities will be occurring in spring 2026. Earth Day is on Wednesday, April 22nd; we’ll plan a Saturday event in April. Arbor Day is on Friday, April 24th and we’ll hold our annual sapling giveaway at the FP Library. More planning to come at future EC meetings. Details and advertising will be shared via social media and cross promoted on the borough’s social media. We will also look into the option of co-sponsoring an event with the recreational committee.

-Frog Pond at Germanhousen Park – Mr. Hause will diagram (map) the frog pond at Germanhousen Park. This site may require some spring cleaning.

-EC Budget – There will be a budget update at the February EC Meeting. The \$30,000 EC budget for 2026 is currently in the approval process. One initiative for 2026 is to purchase and donate goods to the Ridgedale Pollinator Garden at the middle school to help the students maintain the garden.

Old Business:

-ANJEC Grant/Shirts – The new, logoed EC shirts have arrived and were distributed to members. Everyone received a black collared golf shirt and a heather grey work shirt. We agreed it was smart to have both options, so we can best represent the EC at upcoming events.

-SGL and Planting Updates – Monies were encumbered for spring 2026 for replacing the floating wetlands with Princeton Hydro and planting trees and shrubs from De Martinis. Protection has been purchased for the trees so they can be wrapped to prevent damage from deer. A sign was also purchased for the fishing line disposal at SGL. This is to kindly remind anyone fishing where to properly dispose of the broken lines.

-NJDEP Grant – There is a currently a delay in permits and progress. The Division of Fish and Wildlife needs to approve the installation of the alum pump distribution in SGL.

-Morris County Trail Grant – The design grant for improving the trails at SGL was approved by the grant committee in the fall. The trail grant has multiple steps or phases, and it is early in the planning process. Ms. Orloff will be attending a trail grant meeting in the first week of February. Design consulting meetings will also be scheduled soon.

-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. Ms. Orloff, Mr. Franko, and Mr. Hause volunteered to survey trees in the fall. The tree survey will pause until spring is here. There will also be an article in the next quarterly newsletter to help solicit additional volunteers for surveying.

-NJ Invasive Species Task Force – Through volunteers that work at Foote Pond in Morristown (which has been cleaned up over the last 7 years), Ms. Orloff was introduced to the NJ Invasive Species Task Force. This is a different organization than the one just created by state government. This local task force

wants to do a survey of SGL to help determine the best course of action against phragmites and other invasive species at the lake. We are looking to see if this can be scheduled for May 2026.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.