

Minutes EC meeting of 11/19/25

In attendance:

Jackie Bay, Mimi Kaplan, Cy Korman, Robert Platt, Mark Stewart.

BC Liaison: Joshua Howley

HS Liaisons: Charlotte Caggiano, Samantha Hirschfeld

Absent:

Scott Dubnoff

October Minutes approved

High School Update

Charlotte - Reached out to the High School Environmental Club re: Birchwood Rain Garden maintenance. Ten students participated, with Brian Marshall present and guiding the group. The activity was very well received by the students.

Charlotte met with the MLHS principal and Science Department chair to learn about the botanical garden that was created at the high school in the past. The botanical garden was accidentally destroyed during construction at the High School.

Environmental Commission Budget, 2025-26

Dan indicated that it's roughly the same as last year and includes \$750 for a mailer

Boy Scouts Project - There's interest in bringing goats in to the bird sanctuary for a cleanup

Dan gave status on the town Environmental Resources Inventory. The project was approved by the Highlands Council and is in progress. A draft will be provided for Environmental Commission review and comment

Eblasts:

The EC's Batteries disposal eblast is expected to go out on Friday 11/21. The Green Team will handle the next eblast

Rain Garden Status - Mark and Dan will cover December/January

Gas-powered leaf blower discussion and Leave the Leaves

DPW doesn't do much gas-blower activity and they have a mix of gas and electric blowers

Mimi and Jackie will educate DPW about Leaving the Leaves

Proposal: education session for landscapers popular in town re: health benefits and facts about 1) leaving the leaves and 2) converting to electric blowers

Light pollution

- New study shows greater health issues from exposure to lights at night. The EC will prepare an educational eblast on this at a time tbd.

New chair

Dan is retiring from the chair position but will remain on the Environmental Commission and continue running the Community Clean-up. Bob is interested in taking over the Chair role, and he and Dan will talk about it offline.

Respectfully submitted by: Cynthia Korman