

Island Heights Environmental Committee
March 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Susan Thompson, Lynn Pendleton, Judy Caldwell, Dana Fallon, Allan Nichols, Denise Summer, Lucy Sheer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Discussion and Action Items:

- Review and approve the IHEC February 23, 2026 meeting minutes:
Motion: Denise Summer / Second: Dana Fallon, unanimously approved.
- IHGS Reusable Water Bottle Campaign - The IHGS will hold a special assembly on April 2 at 10 am to present why single use bottles damage the environment and to distribute sea devils themed aluminum bottles and pledge cards to the students. IHEC discussed the value of having a recognizable spokesmen for the presentation.
- Monarch Butterfly Milkweed Garden at the IHGS - Pending a confirmation from IHGS that it is moving forward.
- Gas Lawn Blowers -
 - Susan Thompson presented a rough comparison of gas vs battery operated commercial blowers as follows:
 - Cubic Feet per Minute (CFM) - 700-1000 vs 600-1000
 - MPH - 220 vs 150-200
 - Power Duration - 60-90 minutes per tank vs 20 minutes at turbo speed up to 240 minutes at low (affected by power level & battery size)
 - Decibels - 80-115 vs 60-80
 - Cost (rough) - \$300-\$700 vs \$500- \$1,500 with battery and charger
 - Example Commercial Battery Blower - EGO LBPX 8000 kit \$1500
 - Key concerns of gas blowers: Air Quality, Noise Levels, Duration of use in some neighborhoods
 - OSHA does regulate the landscaping industry for noise and air quality limit violations
 - NJ Senate Bill S323 which seeks to limit the sale and use of gas blowers was introduced in January 2026 and has been referred to the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee.
 - Alan Nichols presented details on developing an approach for the consideration of banning the use of gas powered blowers including educating residents and elected officials on the hazards associated with the blowers and supporting state and local initiatives to engage with the transition from gas.
 - The IHEC members agreed to move forward with obtaining educational materials, develop a resource library of key publications, outreach to organizations which may be interested in learning more and posting key information on the Borough's bulletin boards.

- Discussion was held the loss of notable trees in the Borough and value of properly accredited arborists involvement. The IHEC members agreed a survey of heritage trees in the Borough would help to identify key at risk trees and that there may be some benefit to sharing information on the value of the tree with the land owner. It was acknowledged that the insurance industry is a key driver causing the loss of trees and mandatory protections brings high risk of litigation. A volunteer effort to conduct a tree survey was discussed.
 - Lynn Pendleton recognized the Borough's commitment to tree planting with the completed planting of dozens of trees. However, Ms. Pendleton cited the challenge of bringing the needed water to a newly planted tree. The IHEC agreed to pursue an adopt a tree for watering program.
- 250th IH Borough Celebration planned for July 3rd, 2026.
 - The Committee agreed to continue to pursue the planting of a Heritage Tree, seek the purchase of 250 saplings to be distributed to residents and to have a table at the event.
- 2026 Earth Day
 - IHEC will celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 18th from 10am-1pm.
 - The event will be built around a theme of Sustainable Landscaping
- The next IHEC meeting is scheduled for April 27th at 6:00pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm via a motion by Lucy Scheer and seconded by Alan Nichols.



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Borough Clerk

DATE: 5/27/26