

Environmental Commission Annual Report of Activities, 2012

Website Page

January- April

The Commission reviewed past newsletter articles for inclusion on the new website.

Review of Applications – Planning Board/Zoning Board

Letter sent to both Boards in January:

“The Environmental Commission has recently reviewed its role as an advisory body, its relationship to other boards and committees and how we might better serve our township.

The Commission feels that its members are very knowledgeable on environmental issues and environmental law. We would like to share this with you and develop a working relationship with the Board as per MLUL 40:55D-27b.

Please also be advised that in 2012 the Commission will be updating the 2008 Natural Resource Inventory. We will provide the Board with copies when it is completed”.

Invasive Species Binder and Native Alternatives

January - June

Presented to Township Committee 1/25 and subsequently posted on website and distributed to West Amwell Elementary, South Hunterdon HS, Sweet Valley Farms, Rutgers Nursery, Mund’s Landscaping, McElroy Landscaping, Washington Crossing State Park and the Lake Hopatcong park system.

Sustainable Jersey Certification

March

The Environmental Commission/Green Team was notified that West Amwell had achieved Sustainable Jersey certification at the bronze level in program year 2011.

319h Grant – Alexauken

June – September

Field trips/discussions/meetings with Princeton Hydro, Orleans Homeowners Association, School Board and Maintenance Dept. at South to discuss projects for the grant.

Sustainable Jersey Small Grants

May-June

Discussions of grant application for conservation easements. Contact with Banisch Associates. Grant applied for in July.

Amendment to the Renewable Energy Ordinance

June

The EC reviewed and discussed at length the issue of cadmium telluride and made recommendations to Planning Board to not prohibit these panels.

Sustainable Jersey Small Grants

September – Dec.

In September the Environmental Commission/Green Team was notified by Sustainable Jersey that West Amwell had been selected to receive their Small Grant for \$10,000 for Conservation Easements.

In October the Open Space chair met with the EC to discuss the grant. Both Chairs met with Banisch Associates in October.

In November the EC chair met with the Open Space Committee and subsequently met with their sub-committee to continue work on the grant.

2008 NRI Update

November – December

The NRI was updated to reflect the most current land use/land cover data from the DEP. The State Plan and Sourland Special Resource Area were removed and the Invasives/Alternatives were added to the Appendix. Other minor changes were made.

CD's presented to the Planning Board and to be presented to the Zoning Board in 2013.