

Environmental Commission Annual Report of Activities - 2013

Sustainable Jersey Grant for identifying/monitoring conservation easements

Deeds, tax maps and tax books were studied in order to identify and locate the easements. There was considerable discrepancy between the tax map and the tax book. A spreadsheet with all easements was prepared.

A tri-fold pamphlet was prepared and mailed to all residents with conservation easements in February, 2013. This pamphlet described the benefits of conservation easements, information on the holder of the easement and an explanation of the restrictions.

This pamphlet was followed by a letter to the residents in March 2013. Those residents who requested being present during the easement inspection were contacted and appointments set.

Monitoring forms were prepared for each block and lot. The Environmental Commission worked with the Open Space Committee

A GIS map was produced with all conservation easements and deed restricted properties and was mailed to all the township's residents. Also a 24"x36" copy was mounted and hung in the main meeting room.

Work is still ongoing with the easement inspections.

The Citizen's Advisory Stormwater subcommittee of the Environmental Commission

The committee designed and printed a stormwater educational insert which was mailed to all of the township residents.

319h grant for the Alexauken Creek

319h grant rain garden project at South began with a meeting with the Grounds Committee at South in August. The project/planting of native species was completed in the fall. There was student participation in the planting. Princeton Hydro designed an educational plaque.

Watershed Ambassador

Jade Green, Watershed Ambassador, attended several of our meetings. She and a member of the Environmental Commission did a stream analysis of the Alexauken Creek. Jade provided a full report of her findings with recommendations.

Well Water Testing

The Commission designed flyers about the well water testing and handed these out at the Saturday municipal depot on 8/24 and 9/7. Test kits were sold on 9/14. The program was a huge success with many residents participating. The Commission worked with Raritan Headwaters Association.

Elementary School "After the Bell" Program

Commission members met with elementary school teacher, Justin Holohan several times and worked on the curriculum for the project. The "Nature Lovers Club" would feature bird identification, making bird feeders from pinecones and other bird oriented projects, and would involve grades 4-6.