

Environmental Commission Report of Activities for 2016

Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee: Art, Joan and Cathy were reappointed. The Chair provided the necessary Stormwater Education for Township Officials in 2016, with emphasis on stormwater projects for the municipal property:



319h grant for the Alexauken Creek: Multiyear project with many meetings, letters, and emails with the NJDEP and Princeton Hydro in 2016. The DEP had requested that we amend and modify the scope of work for the grant. Approval was given to the municipal property stormwater improvements (image above). We are still waiting for approval for the Kiriluk property.

Music Mountain (The Estates at West Amwell) median strip planting: The Commission worked with Sweet Valley Farms to design both ends and the middle of the strip. We requested tree/shrub/native grass plantings which were deer resistant, able to resist salt damage, tolerant of drought, able to thrive in a median strip with questionable soil, and were relatively easy to maintain.

Conservation Easement and Deed Restricted Lands Map: Updated. Map is on display in the main meeting room.

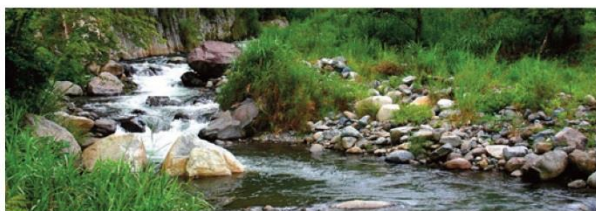
Presentation by Kevin Carroll, “The Compost Man”: Kevin spoke about his business, which would involve composting and kitchen waste collection for the West Amwell Township area households and businesses for a fee of \$240 per year. After considerable discussion, Commission members agreed that we should not, as a Commission or Township, do anything to promote a specific business venture.

Stormwater educational material for residents: Designed and printed for insertion with tax bills:



**WHEN YOU'RE
WASHING YOUR CAR
IN THE DRIVEWAY,
REMEMBER YOU'RE
NOT JUST WASHING
YOUR CAR IN THE
DRIVEWAY...**

Pollutants end up flowing into storm drains, and directly into our streams and rivers. This polluted storm water also threatens the lives of the animals and birds that live in our area.



Why should you care about clean water?

Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean. So what can you do? Take your car to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

Storm water pollution is one of the greatest threats to New Jersey's clean water supply. Clean water provides access to safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from roads, parking lots and lawns into storm drains, then directly into our streams and rivers.

Did you know that more than 60% of water pollution comes from things such as motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of storm water. And out of our beautiful waterways.

Protecting our wildlife.

Many types of litter have been found in the stomachs of marine life, birds and other animals, because they thought it was food. Birds and marine life have also been found trapped or tangled in plastic bags, fishing line and other discarded items. Littering hurts everyone.

Mara Tippet, our current Watershed Ambassador: Mara presented an overview of Raritan Headwaters watershed management and well water testing program. Members decided to again offer water testing to the residents in the spring of 2017.

Emerald Ash borer: The Sourland Conservancy and Sourland Alliance requested our assistance with the serious problem of the Emerald Ash borer, possibly using biological controls. Maps and recommendations were sent to the Sourland Alliance, agreeing that they pursue biological

controls on the Green Acres, NJDEP owned property (the former Lambertville Water Co), as it is a large tract with many ash trees and borers have been confirmed nearby.

Soil Removal Ordinance: The Commission updated and amended the ordinance for clarification as requested by the Planning Board engineer. This was adopted by the Township Committee on November 2, 2016.

Stream Corridor Ordinance: Members discussed the possible changes to the flood hazard area rules (Proposed Flood Hazard Rule Changes: ACR 249/SCR180) and the need to keep the original intent of the West Amwell stream corridor ordinance intact. An amendment, just for clarification purposes, was proposed, with no changes to the content. This was sent to the Planning Board for their review in 2017.