

Minutes for the Environmental Commission April 13, 2017

The meeting commenced at 7:02 pm.

Members present: Andreoli, Beaumont, Coyne, Haug, Neufeld, Urbanski, Dale (TC liaison).

Members excused: Clapp, Piel, Van der Veen, Zuzov.

Minutes from March 9, 2017 were approved, with no changes.

No members of the public were in attendance for comment.

Well Water Testing volunteers, finalized:

May 6, Saturday, leave flyers at the truck. Decision was about 25.

May 13, Saturday, hand out flyers at the “dump”

8:00 – 9:30 -Janice

9:30 – 10:30 -Janice

10:30 – 11:30 -Joel

11:30 – 12:30 - Cathy

May 20, Saturday, sell kits at the municipal building:

8:00 – 9:30 - Janice

9:30 – 10:30 -Jennifer and Jill

10:30 – 11:30 – Jennifer and Jill

11:30 – 12:30 – Cathy and Dave

May 22, Monday, kits returned at the municipal building:

8:00 – 10:00 -Joan and Dave and Cathy

Cathy will get a sign ready to direct residents to the sale on May 20.

EC members discussed at length the failed rain garden on the municipal property as part of the 319h grant and constructed and engineered by Princeton Hydro. Steve Souza claimed that the basin was erroneously constructed 8 inches lower than planned and that the soil mixed in the basin which was redone in January was frozen. Drainage is not happening. Cathy sent several pictures from Clapp and herself to document the failure. Souza is aware of the problem and will address it and put in an underdrain if necessary.

Members felt that the inlet was lower than the outlet and that was the problem. Cathy will continue to discuss this problem with Princeton Hydro. It was noted that the construction company was paid \$90,000 but the township is withholding a \$20,000 payment to Princeton Hydro.

Joel and Cathy discussed the progress made with the Sustainable Jersey certification. Discussion as to how to educate the residents and the TC as to what has been done. Joel offered to present a power point for the TC and info for the residents to be posted on the website. Cathy will provide more information for Joel, especially the narrative for the solar installation.

Emerald Ash Borer probable infestation was discussed. John Dale offered that his forester recommended that all standing ash trees be removed. Members will walk the Hewitt property on June 10 to mark all of the ash trees. Parks and Rec members would like to attend and walk with us. Serious consideration and discussion given to trees which might not be able to impact any residents and fall within the forested area. Fallen trees, if not a liability, contribute to the vibrant ecology of the forest/wooded areas.

Cathy noted that the Drought Toolkit toilet testing dye tablets were made available to residents as they were on the municipal building information table.

The LOI for Texas Eastern was briefly discussed. Also the LOI for the Lang property on Rock Road West.

The plans for the Lambert property were reviewed at length. The parcel is in the Highway Commercial zone, no new structures, just a re-use of the existing buildings. Members questioned the septic arrangement as none was specified, especially for the batting range. Also questioned was any additional impervious cover for parking and what the environmental ramifications were for a stone processing business.

Cathy mentioned that a resident of Barry Road, adjacent to the preserved Hunter property, asked that we consider a tree cutting ordinance. Members agreed that this was not appropriate for the township. Several members decided to consider to somehow regulate clear cutting of woodlands and will provide information at the next meeting. These members felt that cutting of trees which negatively affects neighboring properties should be dealt with in some fashion.

It was noted that the WACAP will be meeting on April 20th at 7 pm. Members were urged to attend. A brief discussion of the status of the PennEast pipeline followed.

No members of the public were present for comment.

Adjournment: 8:25 pm

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski