

## **Minutes for the Environmental Commission April 12, 2018**

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Andreoli, Beaumont, Coyne, Hamtil, Haug, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Dale (TC liaison).

Members excused: Clapp, Zuzov.

Approval of minutes: February 8, 2018: Approved.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

**319h grant** – Members discussed recent communication between the NJDEP and Princeton Hydro:

As per the most recent email communication from Steve Souza:

I received a call from Jay Springer of NJDEP, Paul DeMuro's boss. As you are aware we have been waiting since September for guidance from NJDEP concerning the proposed repair of the erosion gulley on Mr. Kirulik's farm adjacent to Rte 202. DEP has decided at this time to close the grant (it was due to end around the end of May). However, they are not abandoning the project. Rather Jay said that in 2019 will provide another grant to the Town to implement the Kirulik project and conduct additional restoration work along the Creek. Now nothing is binding but at least that is promising.

The issue that we have been dealing with (and have met at least twice with DEP about) is that a portion (about 75') of the total project occurs within the DOT right-of-way. DOT recognizes they have a problem and are fine with the work proposed to correct the problem. However, because that entails the use of some piping and a manhole DEP was originally opposed to the solution...and around and around we've gone. When we met with them on 31 Jan everyone in the room (DEP and DOT) basically OK'd the restoration plan. but we were instructed to wait until DEP decided what to do.

The EC is hesitant to work with another grant.

**Sourland Conservancy – Special Resource Area:** Cathy explained the history with cross acceptance in 2006 and provided a summary from the cross acceptance committee delineating the Special Resource Area for the Sourlands. The Sourland Conservancy wishes to again petition the state to

give this designation to the Sourland Mountain and its environs. Problematic is that there is no state planning department as they abandoned such in 2006, well after all of the communities had researched and commented on all of the planning areas. Joel is to contact the Sourland Conservancy as to what input is needed from WAT. He did send our cross acceptance notes from 2006 to them.

**Deer Management Symposium** – Joel explained that the Sourland Conservancy Symposium was a success, with participation from many groups including Rutgers, D&R, etc., and they held group discussions with forest, Ag, Fish and Wildlife, and others to strategize for control of the deer population. Joel sent the WAT deer hunting program to the SC.

**<http://www.jerseyyards.org>** - Request from Zuzov to post on website: approved.

**PennEast update** - Eminent domain and lawsuits, discussion.

**LOI from SHRHS** - Cathy provided an LOI request from South Hunterdon Regional High School and questioned as to the reason for it. Dave B. offered that this may be for an expansion of the buildings on the HS grounds to accommodate grades K-6, as the elementary school is in need of major repair. Members discussed the cost (estimate of 25-50 M) and the response of the community in general, with the need for an open public forum.

**ANJEC dues** – minor discussion. We still have no funds in our budget.

**Community Outreach Committee** – Dave B. asked that we discuss this. Outreach is needed for the public on various levels. Facebook and the website were discussed. The EC was asked to provide some content. Dave suggested that we spread the word to sign up for email notifications on the WAT website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski.