

## **Minutes for the Environmental Commission April 11, 2019**

The meeting commenced at 7:07 pm.

**Open Public Meetings Statement** – Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Hunterdon County Democrat and was posted on the bulletin board at Town Hall according to the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act. A copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

**Roll call:**

Present: Andreoli, Beaumont, Coyne, Haug, Urbanski, Dale (TC liaison).

Excused: Spille, Van der Veen.

Absent: Clapp, Hamtil.

**Approval of minutes:** January 10, 2019. Approved with corrections.

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

**Stormwater information for residents-** Discussion. Members decided to send to residents (to be included in the tax mailing) the information from Clean Water NJ. Cathy will send this to the County for printing and folding and get them to the Tax Collector for mailing.

**New Stormwater regulations** – Flood Defense/Rain Tax discussed at length as per its applicability to West Amwell. Detention basin failures and runoff are problems, but are isolated. The importance of green infrastructure was discussed. Members questioned the collection of the tax and what it would be used for. In addition, the rain tax would cover roofs and impervious cover, essentially taxing all of the residents. We felt that this was way too broad. Since the adoption of these regulations are at this time not mandatory, members questioned as to doing nothing, but we still had many questions about the regulations. At our next meeting, Lia Mastropolo, Municipal Policy Specialist at The Watershed Institute, will present information and answer our questions.

**EAB trees** – Residents are concerned as to the liability of the potential dead trees. John noted that JCP&L has become more aggressive with their tree cutting as the Township Committee has been notified of such activity.

**Current Preserved Properties in the township** – Cathy provided a very current map (done with the help of Joanna Slagle, Banisch Assoc.) Members noted the Sourland area which has a much needed greenway link from the Fulper property. If preserved, this parcel would provide a complete link from Lambertville to Mt. Airy Harb. Road. Amwell Valley Conservancy was also discussed.

**NJDEP Category One designation for an additional 749 miles rivers/streams** - Members decided to send the DEP a short, but positive comment.

**SHRHS PFNA Contamination** - SHRHS letter concerning water contamination with PFNA and the new NJ regulations were discussed. Members seriously questioned as to the source of this contamination as there are not major industries located here or nearby. The contaminant is a byproduct of Teflon manufacturing.

We also questioned the accuracy of the testing since it was done in parts per trillion. Awaiting the results of a follow up test. Dave B. is to contact the school to determine the depth of their well. Discussion as to whether the Municipal Building should test their well – decision to wait as the problem may just be isolated to the school. It was noted that the amount of PFNA is miniscule compared to the contamination in South Jersey. Cathy to check with Raritan Headwaters to see if they test for this.

**Letters to EC from Texas Eastern/PennEast** – This was for operating permits/test pits on and around the preserved Lambert Farm. Cathy to contact Mike for information and the need for comment.

**Well Water Testing** – Members decided to not have testing done this year.

**Open to members for further discussion** – Dave B. expressed concern with our recycling efforts since China will no longer take our recycling. Are the recyclables actually recycled or are they being dumped with the household trash? It was noted that recycling is a State law. Dave. B. will check with Ryan (DPW) as to where the recycling ends up.

John noted that the township is planning to end single stream recycling and that corrugated cardboard and aluminum must be sorted. The township currently pays for the recycling, but can receive some reimbursement for cardboard and aluminum.

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

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski.