

Minutes for the Environmental Commission February 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Members present: Andreoli, Beaumont, Clapp, Neufeld, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Zuzov, Dale (TC liaison).

Members excused: Haug, Piel.

Oath of Allegiance – Andreoli read and signed the Oath of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes – the minutes from January 14, 2016 were approved, with corrections.

No members of the public were present for comment.

319h grant for the Alexauken Creek update: Progress reported with obtaining DEP approval for current proposed projects. Members were provided with the revised Scope of Work from Princeton Hydro. Projects that were in the original SOW were removed from consideration (Orleans detention basins/rain garden) or deemed not suitable as per the DEP (the dam at the Alexauken Creek Wildlife Management Area). Other projects have been proposed, including that on the municipal property. Final approval obtained from Nick Zripko, awaiting final DEP approval.

Art questioned the projects' numbers and locations. Cathy will bring to the next meeting the 2011 Alexauken Creek Watershed Protection Plan prepared by Princeton Hydro in order to help members understand the proposed restoration sites.

Music Mountain (The Estates at West Amwell) median strip planting: The Feb.8 meeting with the engineer's firm to discuss the plantings was cancelled. A draft proposal will be furnished by Cathy, as per the previous EC's recommendations. Dave provided native plant catalogs. Members strongly recommended bringing the residents at the Estates into our planning and design.

Presentation by Kevin Carroll, or "The Compost Man": Kevin spoke with us about his business, which involves composting and kitchen waste collection for the West Amwell Township area households and businesses. The Recycling Committee members (Porter Little, Nella Hamptil, and Justin Holohan) attended our meeting at this point. Kevin's goal is to cut the food waste that is being placed in landfills. He would provide containers to individual residents, with a pickup fee of \$20/month. The materials would be composted at local landscaper's sites (Rutgers and Britton) and the compost would be returned to the residents at a cost. Members had many questions: \$240/year would probably not be acceptable to most residents; Dave questioned the permits necessary and gave recommendations; composting of dryer lint and sheets (Art – synthetic); colored newspaper and print; smell and animal problems. It was suggested that a drop off at the municipal depot for trash and recycling might work and various types of containers could be used. Porter thought that if the food waste in the garbage could be reduced that we could have less garbage and a lesser tipping fee and that this should be further investigated. EC members agreed that we should not, as a commission or township, do anything to promote this specific business venture, as there would be a conflict. Nella suggested that this be handled by the recycling committee. The presentation lasted over an hour.

Basin maintenance at Music Mountain + Lambertville violations of municipal property: Discussed at the 2/3 Township Committee meeting. The matters were referred to the Open Space Committee and the DPW.

Members reviewed the following budget request which was submitted to the Township Committee on 2/3. ANJEC dues - \$350.00, Stormwater flyers - \$150.00 +, update OS/conservation easement map \$150.00 +, pipeline related outreach to impacted residents - \$550.00 or more if possible, or a separate fund.

Members decided to wait until next year to decide if water testing is to be done. However, with the proposed pipeline, next year might be important to offer the testing. It was suggested that Margaret Logreia attend one of our meetings and provide us with information as to the patterns of the last water testing.

Paper copies of the Wastewater Management Plan were made available to members. Clapp will review. Cathy will get a copy to Rob, since he had requested one.

Dave Beaumont questioned that a portion of Rock Road West, though not a public/township owned road, still had public access. (Hofstetter property and others). Members discussed this.

Soil Removal Ordinance, Woodlands Ordinance mitigation, and the review of PSE&G's Freshwater Wetlands General Permit Application were all carried till the next meeting.

No members of the public were present for comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski.