

## **Minutes for the Environmental Commission February 8, 2018**

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

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

Members excused: Zuzov.

Approval of minutes: January 11, 2018: Approved with corrections.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Henry Clapp was present as a member of the public, but he did not wish to comment.

**319h grant** – Members discussed recent communication between the NJDEP and Princeton Hydro: The DEP will be scheduling a meeting to discuss the possibility of any continuation for work under this grant. They determined that all work under the funding of this grant should the Department has determined if a 2 year extension can be requested or approved.

Members are uncertain as to the future of the grant.

**Deer Management Symposium** – Discussion that on March 3, the Sourland Conservancy will be hosting the symposium from 10-1:30 at the Princeton Elks Lodge at 354 County Road 518, Skillman, NJ.

Joel, as a Conservancy trustee noted that covered topics would be agricultural impacts, forest impacts, community deer management, hunting, and legislative strategies. Joel referred the members to the Sourland Conservancy website for further information and asked Cathy to send information to the EC members. He urged local participation in this symposium. Recommendation by members to send information to Dan Malek, who heads the Deer Management Program in the Township.

Cathy discussed that the Open Space Committee already had a Deer Management Program and will send the regulations and stats to the members. Also the "Water Co. Property" and Goat Hill Overlook property have deer hunting programs (Green Acres).

Members discussed the need to have extra deer donated to those in need. Dave noted that the HHH, which is a sponsor of the symposium, would be able to accomplish this (HHH= Hunters Helping the Hungry).

Jennifer noted that the Hunts already do this and will contact them for further information.

**Texas Eastern Compressor Station upgrade** – Mike Spille and Mayor Steve Bergenfeld recently met with Enbridge (for Texas Eastern) and members discussed his notes from the meeting:

1. Enbridge sent a hired gun PR guy, not an Enbridge employee. We indicated we need to sit down with an actual Enbridge person to talk through some issues
2. He did not want to admit that they were doing a ton of upgrades beyond the compressors, and that this was also connected to PennEast, but I forced him to by showing him the relevant FERC application areas.
3. Asked why they are not proposing electrical compressors, since emissions from those would be near zero. He will get back to us.
4. Asked why they touted the NOX reduction but hid all the other massive INCREASES the upgrade would cause. He said he'll get back to us.
5. I indicated if they were choosing electric compressors for cost reasons, then the township will need to be compensated for them poisoning residents intentionally and unnecessarily.
6. There were discussions about tax increases (separate from compensation for air damage!), which apparently is tied to piping, which is increasing a lot due to the PennEast connections.
7. We talked about the increasing smell around the plant has been getting worse and more constant. He had no clue, we said this was a major problem they need to fix. He'll get back to us.
8. We talked about the laughable site security and that a determined lunatic could turn the compressor station and surrounding Mt. Airy Region into a smoking crater far too easily.
9. Mayor and I both hit on how arrogant and nasty the employees are, they disregard everyone from the mayor on down
10. Total lack of education or preparation for first responders in the event of any incidents on site. Mayor demanded yearly compensation for this as well.
11. I showed him the cost breakdown of the proposal - how much was PennEast, how much was new compressors, and total of \$110 million. Underscored the point they're spending big bucks on this, our demands are a drop in the bucket (and not just the monetary ones) and they need to do right by us (which they never have in the past).
12. Indicated the township will be intervening, which we've got to get moving on.
13. The Township has no data or notice on blow down events from the station. I demanded we get a history of blow downs and they begin notifying us of planned ones in advance, and emergency ones after the fact (which I believe they are required to do anyway, they just haven't).

Mike strongly suggested that WAT become an Intervenor on the Enbridge docket with FERC. Cathy will follow up with TC member Jim Cally as suggested by John Dale.

**Stormwater discharge on neighboring property** – John Cronic had contacted Cathy as per a property adjoining the Orleans development which had a pipe from one of the houses discharging unknown water on to a neighboring undeveloped lot. After discussion, members decided that the Township engineer should be consulted.

**Stonybrook** – Joel noted that he is considering volunteering to help their organization.

**PennEast Pipeline Update** - Lengthy discussion as per the status of the pipeline project. Members were provided with recent denials from the NJDEP and the NJ State Attorney General. To summarize:

New Jersey's attorney general rejected a proposal for use of state-controlled land for a \$1.1 billion natural gas pipeline, slowing the years-long effort by the company to break ground on a project strongly opposed by environmental groups.

Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a letter Friday that PennEast was "patently misleading" when it referenced multiple attempts at negotiating over the use of the land.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Friday also rejected the company's application for water permits, citing missing information.

Members were very concerned with eminent domain and discussed the constellation pipeline. A farmer (maple syrup) (New Milford, PA) for generations had his stand of maples used for maple syrup, only to be cut by the proposed pipeline 2 weeks before NY denied the application. He lost his livelihood for a pipeline which was never built. The thrust now is to inundate FERC with letters to prevent the same thing from happening here.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski.