

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

March 9, 2017

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

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

Members excused: Neufeld, Van der Veen, Zuzov.

Members absent: Piel.

Minutes from January 12, 2017 were approved, with no changes.

No members of the public were in attendance for comment.

Cathy had suggested that we may want to wait until the fall to do the water testing, as we possibly did not have enough volunteers. Members disagreed and agreed to sign up via email for times to hand out the flyers and sell/receive the test kits. We had gotten a quote from the Hunterdon County printing department for \$178.00 for 800 color flyers. Members agreed that the price was great. Dave will inquire as to using SHRHS listserve. Members reviewed the press release provided by Raritan Headwaters and agreed to post it and the flyer on the website.

Members reviewed the NJDEP information on the emerald ash borer and agreed to have it posted on the website. Mayor Dale suggested we have the information posted in full, rather than have a link. Dave C. questioned the municipal response plan. The EC is to identify all ash trees in Hewitt Park, but we, at this time, have no means to identify all of the ash trees in the township.

Carmela Buono, our watershed ambassador for 2017, discussed the work of Raritan Headwaters, especially the stream cleanup scheduled for April 22 and the need for volunteers. She explained the cleanup process and suggested that since we have just a tiny segment of Back Brook in the Raritan watershed that we could clean up another stream in the township. Members discussed several segments of Alexauken Creek, State and WAT owned segments, and recruiting students as volunteers. Cathy will send out maps for further discussion.

It was noted that the Environmental Commission Report of Activities for 2016 was presented to the Township Committee and posted on the website.

It was also noted that the Stream Corridor Amendment was approved by the Township Committee on February 1st.

The 319h grant project for the detention basin retrofit on the municipal property was discussed as it is now a "retention" basin. Calls and emails to Princeton Hydro, Steve Sousa have gone unanswered. Members discussed this situation with much concern. Joel volunteered to contact Steve as he has a history of working with him. Members facetiously discussed using the basin as a vernal pool and bringing on the frogs!

Joel and Cathy discussed the Sustainable Jersey re-certification process. Joel had prepared a spreadsheet with all of the necessary actions explained. Joel also explained the benefits of SJ certification.

Cathy had received a Drought Toolkit from the DEP and passed around some information and also dye tablets to test for leaking toilets. We will get the Township Committee's permission to have these available for residents.

No members of the public were present for comment.

Adjournment: 7:57 pm

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski