

Minutes for the Environmental Commission May 9, 2019

Call to order

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, Clapp, Coyne, Hamtil, Urbanski, Dale (TC liaison).

Haug and Spille - excused.

It was noted that Van der Veen has resigned.

Approval of minutes: April 11, 2019, approved.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Business

Presentation by The Watershed, Lia Mastropolo. Lisa presented herself as a municipal policy specialist for the Watershed. She has been involved for 6 months. She and the Watershed's goal is to support local Environmental Commissions with tentative project expansions, especially along the Delaware River. The Watershed wishes to help local municipalities with ERI's, water issues, stream monitoring, updating ordinances, and work with the NJDEP with water quality issues.

It was noted that the Watershed has helped WAT in the past with input on the NRI and help with the steam corridor ordinance.

Discussion on the Flood Defense Bill, recently from NJ, otherwise known as the "rain tax". Lia noted that any compliance with such is totally voluntary for municipalities and agreed that this was not a good fit for West Amwell. Mostly this bill is for municipalities who have development, many stormwater basins, lots of infrastructure (pipes), and flooding problems, to provide funding for related stormwater projects.

It was noted that West Amwell was not impacted and there was no issue affecting the township.

Further discussion with Lia on the new stormwater rules which recommends more nonstructural/green practices.

Stormwater information for residents- Copy of mailing to be sent to residents provided for members. It was noted that the copy would cost \$137.00 from the County Printing, but would be zero if the deputy clerk made the copies, yet, EC members would have to trifold 1400 copies. Cathy decided to have the County do the printing and folding.

PennEast Update – Mike was not present at the meeting, but offered the following update:

- Surveys in NJ seem to still be ongoing to some degree, but are starting to dwindle.
- Bethlehem Township, PA recently made a deal with PA to move the pipeline 100 feet away from some houses in their township in exchange for about \$500,000.
- FERC has pushed back its decision on the amended filing for the route changes in PA all the way back to December (!).
- The State of NJ appeal against eminent domain is pending, court case should happen sometime in June 2019. Not sure how soon after that case is heard that a decision will be made by the court.
- We expect PennEast will probably file yet another amended certificate application since they will almost certainly change the route in NJ to some degree.

NJDEP Category One designation for an additional 749 miles rivers/streams. Positive comments sent from the EC.

Hunterdon Freeholders comments discussed: they were not favorable, citing impacts on future development, sewage expansions, and reduced property values.

SHRHS – Water contamination with PFNA. NJ new regulations. Dave B. reported that the schools always tested for PFNA, but the standards have changed. The Federal limit is 75 ppt and the new NJ limit is 13 ppt. SHRHS tested at 39 ppt. West Amwell Elementary has a filtration system in which there was no detection. Members questioned as to whether the testing was done before or after the filtration. Dave recommended that since the municipal building was public to have the water tested. Members commented that this is not a local problem, as it is country wide, pervasive in the environment, and the amount of contamination is miniscule compared to south jersey. Since we members still have many questions, it was decided that we all study the possibilities and report at the next meeting and before making any recommendation to the township

Lanternfly information/outreach program - from Hunterdon County. Members decided that if the County would attend our meeting that we would be receptive. Cathy to call the County Parks and Recreation.

Opportunity for Public Comment. - None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski