

Minutes for the Environmental Commission November 10, 2016

The meeting commenced at 7:01 pm

Members present - Andreoli, Beaumont, Clapp, Haug, Neufeld, Urbanski,
Van der Veen, Zuzov, Dale (TC liaison), Coyne, Associate member.

Members excused – Van der Veen

Members absent – Piel

Minutes from October 13, 2016 were approved.

No members of the public were present for comment.

EC members welcomed Joel Coyne as an associate member. Joel has had extensive experience with his work for Bernard Township as an Environmental Health Consultant. He has, in the past, been an EC member for 10 years and had worked closely with the then Sourland Planning Council (now Sourland Conservancy) and the then South Branch of the Raritan (now Raritan Headwaters Assn.). Joel offered his assistance with Stormwater and the Sustainability Jersey certification.

The Township Committee had a public hearing on the Soil Removal and Management ordinance on 11-2-16. Cathy attended the meeting to defend the ordinance. One member of the public, Ed DiFiglia, from Stonybrook Millstone Watershed Association spoke favorably about the ordinance. The ordinance will now be a part of the Code of West Amwell.

Cathy reported on the completion of the 319h grant project at the municipal property for the detention basin retrofit and the other bio-retention meadows. Maps and plans were provided. The stormwater aspects were detailed. Plants in the basin include: milkweed, purple coneflower, black-eyed susans, butterfly weed, little bluestem, oxeye sunflower, goldenrod, and purpletop, plus a seed mix of annual rye. Shrubs in the basin: 7 arrowroot, 3 serviceberry, 5 chokecherry, 11 New Jersey tea. Scarlet oaks were planted on the west side of the gravel road. It was noted that the detention basin was filled with NJDEP bio-retention soil (90% sand, 10% organic matter). Also – there was so much junk, i.e., concrete and refrigerator parts that were removed from the site. Also the removed fill was placed near the garbage depot at the request of the DPW, as there could be use for such. The bio-retention meadows were seeded with: little bluestem, switchgrass, foxglove, purpletop, purple love grass, asters, milkweed, and coreopsis. The meadows will take 2-3 years to establish. They should be mowed to 8 inches once a year, in the fall.

Dave Clapp expressed concern that the stability of the “ditch” on the east side of the road leading to the farm field was not addressed. Discussion that the rain garden retrofit will reduce the flow into the ditch. Cathy will speak with Princeton Hydro further. However, the last classification of the “ditch” was as a stream, which would incur permits.

Also discussed was the potential solution to the Kiriluk property, with the run off from Route 202 creating serious erosion and a ditched channel on his farm, which brings contaminated runoff directly into the Alexauken Creek. We are waiting for DEP approval on the project for further discussion.

The amendment to the Stream Corridor Ordinance was sent to the Planning Board. Their recommendation was to review it in early 2017.

Stormwater information/training to be provided to the Township Committee on November 16, with emphasis on the stormwater improvements on the municipal property

Decision to pre-pay part of our 2017 ANJEC dues this month, with the remainder of our budget (\$300).

Members discussed our project for early 2017 – well water testing with Raritan Headwater Association. We already have the flyer ready - uncertainty as to how to distribute: hand out at municipal depot, township wide mailing, website, listserve? Dave Beaumont to follow up with listserve.

Decision to not meet in December unless we are needed to review a minor subdivision from the Planning Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski