

Minutes for the Environmental Commission October 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Members present: Andreoli, Clapp, Haug, Neufeld, Urbanski, Zuzov, Dale (TC liaison).

Members excused: Beaumont, Van der Veen.

Members absent: Piel.

Approval of minutes – the minutes from September 8, 2016 were approved, with Clapp and Neufeld abstaining.

No members of the public were present for comment.

The Soil Removal Ordinance was introduced by the Township Committee on October 5, 2016. The Planning Board had reviewed it and had made some changes prior to sending it to the Township Committee. EC members reviewed the changes and had some questions and further changes. Cathy will contact the Planning Board Chair and ask that the questions be discussed with their engineer, Bill Burr. The questions mostly involved the Planning Board questions regarding 138-3,B, Performance Standards, as to whether the requirement for an engineered plan showing the earthwork balance quantities of subsoil and topsoil was cost prohibitive or not. Also concerns by the members was 138-6, Violations and Penalties, as to whether the removal of each boulder of three feet in diameter would constitute a separate violation.

The 319h grant construction of the retrofit of the detention basin on the municipal property will begin on October 17. EC members reviewed the plans. Also reviewed were the plans for the solar array (Onyx) for the municipal building.

Members discussed the possible changes to the flood hazard area rules and the need to keep the original intent of the West Amwell stream corridor ordinance intact. A simple amendment to address this would be to add the following to the ordinance:

Establishment of stream corridor.

(1) Stream corridors shall be delineated as follows:

(a) Category One waters; trout maintenance and production waters.

[1] For Category One waters, the stream corridor shall be measured as defined in the Flood Hazard Area Control Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13, or as defined by this chapter, whichever is more restrictive. **For FW2-TM(C1) streams, the stream corridor shall extend 300 feet perpendicular to and parallel with both sides of the stream.**

(b) For trout maintenance and production waters, the stream corridor shall be measured as defined in the Flood Hazard Area Control Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13, or as defined by this chapter, whichever is more restrictive. **For FW2-TM streams, the stream corridor shall extend 150 feet perpendicular to and parallel with both sides of the stream.**

Members discussed the request by former EC member, Joel Coyne, to re-join the Commission. Agreement that he will be added as an associate member.

2016 Budget was discussed: remaining funds will be spent in support of work for the PennEast pipeline opponents and to pre-pay our 2017 ANJEC dues.

Members discussed the status of the PennEast pipeline, noting DEIS comments from the NJ Rate Counsel, Federal EPA, Fish and Wildlife, NJDEP, and other federal and state agencies.

Art mentioned the feasibility study for the compost/food waste/manure for the Fulper Farms. The township has not heard anything in this regard. Art will follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski.