

Environmental Commission Minutes for October 12, 2017

Roll call: Present: Andreoli, Clapp (arrived at 7:40), Coyne, Urbanski, Van der Veen,
Dale (TC liaison),
Excused: Beaumont, Neufeld, Piel, Zuzov.
Absent: Haug

The meeting commenced at 7:05 pm.

Approval of minutes: July 17, 2017 – approved with no changes.

Opportunity for Public Comment - no members of the public were present.

Members discussed the status of the 319h grant projects. Members are not favorable to the design and planting of the rain garden/bio retention basin on the municipal property, especially since it had been rejected by Sustainable Jersey for an action with points, saying that this was basically wetlands and no signage was up. It was recommended that Princeton Hydro be contacted.

The project for the Kiriluk erosion problem on his property was discussed. DEP has finally approved the project and the one year extension has also been approved.

Cathy expressed concern for the ongoing work with this project. Joel offered his help.

Sustainable Jersey emails from Samantha asked us to complete our application. SJ rejected some of what was applied for, but offered suggestions as to how to comply. Cathy worked on this and sent the final application on 10/11.

Stormwater Education for Township Committee is planned for 11/15. Joel and Cathy will be present, with Joel doing a PowerPoint presentation.

It was noted by Mayor Dale that the emerald ash borer problem in Hewitt Park would be taken care of by the DPW. Ryan has been asked to remove 10-15 of the ash trees marked by Clapp per year. Members questioned as per the wood available and that it should not leave the township. Wood to be cut in 18" length and offered to residents.

Ecosystems instead of lawns: Members discussed this. Cathy provided the 2016 Sourland Conservancy recommendations on this. It was noted that their recommendation was to use glyphosate to kill the lawn. Members were not necessarily in favor of this. Joan noted that she has a large area which is not mowed, but is brush hogged every two years and it has produced a great variety of wildflowers. Members still not certain as to how to pursue this, as we have no \$\$\$ to send out a mailing.

At this point in the meeting there were some strange sounds coming from outside the meeting room. With much concern, the WATPD was informed.

Several minutes later, WATPD Corporal Jonathan Sellner came into the meeting and assessed any problem. He spoke eloquently, at our request, as per what the WATPD does for the Township. We thanked him for his help and for his input.

The PennEast Pipeline information was updated.

No members of the public were available for comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski