

Minutes for the Environmental Commission October 11, 2018

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Andreoli, Haug, Spille, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Dale (TC liaison).

Members excused: Beaumont, Clapp, Coyne.

Members absent: Hamtil

The EC welcomed our new member, Mike Spille.

Approval of minutes: September 13, 2018: Approved, without changes.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

319h grant and reapplication for 2019: Cathy had spoken with Steve Souza, Princeton Hydro and expressed the EC's concerns with applying for another grant. He questioned why. When presented with the nightmare of working with the shifting demands and changing projects from the DEP and their permits and basically them trying to derail any of our projects, he totally agreed with our assessment and decision. Since he is retiring at the end of 2018, he cannot be of much help in the future.

Letter to the Township Committee regarding our concern with the premature mowing of our vegetative swale: Cathy spoke with Mayor Bergenfeld. Mr. Fulper's son did the mowing, and did not notice the silt fence or the flowers. Apologies from them. There is to be a meeting with the Mayor, Mr. Fulper and Cathy to survey the designated swale/bio retention area for future cuttings and mark the area with flags somehow.

NJ's Plastic Bag policy: Members reviewed the current proposed regulations from New Jersey Plans a Plastic-Banning Spree - The Garden State wants to ban plastic bags, straws, and Styrofoam and the plastic ban resolution from ANJEC. Members decided that the proposal was incomplete and not suitable or necessary for our Township.

Penn East Update: Mike provided an update as per just what is going on with Penn East: Eminent Domain is still in the courts, with no judge's ruling for several months so far. Questions/wonder? While Governor Murphy has proclaimed that he is against the pipeline, he did not go too far, so as not to irritate the unions/political reasons. Mike had met with Murphy's policy director. However, the Attorney General, is still helping to fight the pipeline. Seems as though there are delay tactics in place.

There is still input from the DRBC to consider: nothing viable yet, unsure as to their stance and position at this this time.

Mike noted that at this point that there were no premature tree cuttings along the pipeline route. Worry next spring!

Also Mike noted that 7% of NJ affected landowners have capitulated and have negotiated with PennEast, though no one in West Amwell, mostly those in Holland, Alexandria, and Mercer. A small percentage of landowners capitulating was noted.

The Adelphia pipeline was noted as not yet receiving approval. This line is basically a parallel to the PE pipeline and if approved may negate the need for the PE line.

[Invasives and ANJEC dues -Members discussed that the EC has \\$500 left in our budget for 2018 and how to effectively utilize it.](#)

[We could pre pay our 2019 ANJEC dues or use the \\$\\$\\$ for resident education.](#)

[Decision to educate our residents as to the potential problems associated with the Emerald Ash Borer, the Lantern Fly, and the Long Horned Tick.](#)

[Cathy and Joan will work on a trifold to be printed this year and mailed in 2019 for the emerald ash borer, the lantern fly, and the long horned tick. While this information is on our website, the EC members felt that there may not be enough residents accessing the information on the website and that we needed more output to make our residents aware of the serious problems with these invasive species.](#)

[Mike felt that we could possibly make this information available on the West Amwell Facebook page and possibly work with the schools in disseminating this information to the residents.](#)

[Members did not feel the need for further discussion on any topics.](#)

Opportunity for Public Comment -- none

The meeting was adjourned at ~~8:30~~8:50 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski