

## **Minutes for the Environmental Commission September 13, 2018**

The meeting commenced at 7:02 pm.

Members present: Beaumont, Clapp, Coyne, Hamtil, Haug, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Dale (TC liaison).  
Members excused: Andreoli.

It was noted that member Zuzov had resigned, with sadness and a thank you to the members. Mike Spille has agreed to take her place. Members approved. Cathy will send this to the TC for approval for appointing Spille at their next meeting.

Approval of minutes: April 12, 2018: Approved.

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

**Stormwater flyer for residents** – done by Joan and Cathy, copies provided. These were included in the mailing of the tax bills. Some members had not seen these.

**Stormwater education for elected officials** – Cathy had spoken with the Clerk as per the need/requirement to continue with our yearly presentation. The Clerk felt that it was not necessary. Members discussed this. Joel had discussed this with the Watershed and they felt that the language for such presentations were very vague. Members decided to wait to see if the new proposed Stormwater regulations will address this.

Discussion that there would be new stormwater rules, probably in 2019. Joel indicated that the Watershed could send a speaker to help the Township understand the rules. Discussion and decision to wait until the new rules are adopted and then have the presentation be to the Planning Board.

**319h grant** – Members discussed the fact that the current grant had expired. According to Steve Souza, Princeton Hydro, we can apply for another grant in 2019 to continue work on the Kiriluk property. Members considered the many problems working with the DEP on the grant and felt that we would not want to apply for another grant. Souza is retiring at the end of 2018 and would probably not be of too much help.

Much discussion as the vegetated swale/bio retention basin north of the garbage depot which had been prematurely mowed. Draft of a letter to the TC provided by Cathy. Discussion on this and changes/edits to the draft. Joan noted that the TC should be informed as to the purpose of the swale. Members decided to continue working on this letter via email for the next two days and have the final letter sent to the Clerk for the next TC meeting.

**East Amwell's request for help on their NRI**- Cathy was contacted by an East Amwell member of their EC, requesting help with producing an NRI. She told them to use our NRI as a model and just give us credit for any information used, just as we did with using the Delaware Twp. NRI. There was no further communication from East Amwell. Joel noted that they have basically slacked off on these and other issues, specifically that they have never applied to Sustainable Jersey for certification.

**Support for New Jersey's Comprehensive Bag Policy** – The Governor vetoed the plastic bag tax. Members discussed this and felt like we should be like Nella and Cathy who have used reusable bags for years. Jill uses the plastic bags over and over and then some. Members will continue to monitor this.

**Penn East update** - Discussion on the continued lawsuits, FERCs tolling order and eminent domain. Dave C. mentioned that he had been contacted by PE and they offered to test his well (for the opportunity to walk on his property and note where the well was placed). No.

**Emerald Ash borer** – Dave B. brought this up. He had previously asked the TC as to who would be responsible if an ash tree falls in the Township ROW. The TC had said that it was the residents' responsibility. Discussion. Unless a tree falls on the power line which would be a JCP&L problem, it does seem as though the responsibility is on the resident to take care of the trees. Members were asked to decide if an outreach to residents might be appropriate. Dave C. spoke about possible legal issues. Members decided to let the TC handle this.

**Lantern Fly and Emerald Ash borer and Longhorned tick**- Need resident education. Discussion and decision to post information on the website.

**Bowman's Hill Wildlife Preserve** – information passed out.

**ANJEC dues** – Carried to next meeting. Most members are not necessarily in favor.

**Meeting Schedule** – Cathy questioned members as to wanting to adopt an e/o month schedule as the Open Space committee had done. Members wished to stay on the monthly schedule and cancel the meeting if there was no business.

**Open to members**- Dave B. expressed concern about our recycling efforts since China will no longer take the recyclables. He and Nella discussed this. Also, Nella noted that we again now have to pay to have the recyclables collected. Concerns were raised that our single stream recycling may have to revert to the recycling efforts in the past where everything would have to be separated.

**Opportunity for Public Comment** - none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski

