

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

June 13, 2019

Call to order: meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

Open Public Meetings Statement – Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Hunterdon County Democrat and was posted on the bulletin board at Town Hall according to the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act. A copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

Roll call: Present: Andreoli, Clapp, Coyne, Haug, Hamtil, Urbanski, Dale (TC liaison).
Excused: Beaumont, Spille.

Approval of minutes: May 9, 2019 – approved with no changes.

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

Presentation by Ryan Rollero – WAT DPW road supervisor: Ryan presented information for the scheduled 2nd Annual Delaware River Cleanup, as he is involved as Clean Communities coordinator. Last year Bulls Island was targeted for cleanup, but this year all river towns are being asked to contribute to the cleanup effort. The communities noted are from West Amwell to Frenchtown and then to Kingwood. Volunteers are being asked to walk along the towpath, pick up trash, which would be picked up by state employees (this project is being funded mostly by Hunterdon County, in addition to D&R canal, NJ State Parks, and NJDEP. Volunteers will meet at the Holcombe-Jimson Farm and be transported to their destinations via LINK. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by Hunterdon County along with gloves, bags, etc. EC members suggested that the schools (list serve), scouts, fire co., WAT website be notified/posting of this information. We will wait to do this, as an online signup is being prepared and should be up soon, which would require pre-registration for the event. Ryan to provide electronic copies of all information to Cathy for distribution and when the online registration is available. It was also noted that canoes were being provided by the county to search the shoreline for trash. Members also suggested contacting the Watershed and Raritan Headwaters for further lists of volunteers.

Members further questioned Ryan as to the status of recycling.

From Ryan – single stream recycling has basically been a failure. China will no longer accept our recyclables. Mostly 9/10 times the recycling goes into a landfill. Colgate will determine if our single stream is worthy, most have been rejected (no rinsing, inappropriate plastics). Ryan said that only 1,2,5 plastics can maybe be recycled. Members noted that the general population will not do this. It was again noted that WAT pays \$109/ton for recyclables and \$66/ton for garbage, begging the question as to why recycle. It seems as though recycling corrugated cardboard and aluminum and ferrous metals and white office paper would be beneficial financially to WAT. There will be no further electronics recycling. Ryan said that the main problem is plastics.

PFNA contamination – Members decided that since there was such a low level of contamination and this was ubiquitous country wide as to not alarm residents at this time. Members reviewed news articles and information from Lia and members Bottom line: a carbon filter will remove 90% PFNA, information which should be supplied to residents if they request it.

PennEast Update – Cathy to send link to the NJ.com article.

Information from Fairfax Hutter on the Alexauken Creek – Fairfax had contacted the EC with concerns that sandbags/erosion (gas pipeline related) were present on the Alexauken Creek on the WAT owned Titus property. It was determined that the sandbags were not on the Titus property, but on the former Miller property. EC has no jurisdiction over this property. It was recommended that the DEP be contacted by Hutter.

Open to members for further discussion: None.

Opportunity for Public Comment. Public members Henry and Sarah Clapp were present, playing with their toys and cheerios, but did not wish to comment.

Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski.