

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

January 10, 2013

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:32 pm.

Members present –Longhi,(arrived late), Neufeld, Piel, Rich (TC liaison), Urbanski, Van der Veen, Zuzov.

Members absent - Baldino, Hall.

Minutes of December 13, 2012 were approved.

No members of the public were present for comment.

Sustainable Jersey grant for conservation easements was discussed. Cathy reported that she has been working with the Open Space Committee and that all of the easements in the township have been identified. Easement owners are to be sent educational materials within a few weeks and Banisch & Associates will be mapping the easements as soon as the WAT tax map is updated.

Cathy presented the updated NRI CD to the Planning Board on 12-18-12 and the board gave permission to post it on the website. Joan volunteered to provide hard copies of the NRI and she and Cathy volunteered to work on this.

The subcommittee of the EC - Citizens Advisory, Stormwater –The subcommittee of Art, Joan and Cathy were reappointed. A discussion to revise the stormwater information being sent to residents was discussed as the same flyers have been sent for years and probably were not read. Samples of possible information were provided to the members. The commission decided to use the information on fertilizers and car wash. Also discussed was the involvement of the local girl and boy scouts to help with the dissemination of stormwater information.

A possible recommendation to the planning board/township committee for an amendment to the stormwater ordinance was discussed. At question was the section under Environmentally Critical Areas that stated “...suitable habitat of endangered and threatened species... “. Cathy felt that this might be overly restrictive and set the township up for future lawsuits. The issue was resolved by Rob Piel who provided excellent insight into this by explaining that the ordinance specified that the NJDEP Landscape Project would have jurisdiction over this and identify the areas in possible question.

Cathy recommended that the Commission review information from Jade Green, Watershed Ambassador at: <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/freshwater/embedded-water/>

Water well testing - information from the Raritan Headwaters Association was provided. Members felt that the fees might be too high. Cathy will follow up.

Our website page was discussed.

No members of the public were present for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski