

# **Minutes for the Environmental Commission**

## **March 14, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:34 pm.

Members present – Baldino, Hall, Neufeld, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Zuzov.

Members absent - Longhi, Piel, Rich (TC liaison).

Minutes of January 10, 2013 were approved.

Oaths of Allegiance were taken by Baldino and Zuzov.

Dave Clapp was present as a member of the public, with a possible interest in becoming a member of the Environmental Commission.

The discussion continued for the Sustainable Jersey grant for conservation easements. Cathy supplied the members with the trifolds which were sent to easement holders and explained that another letter would be sent soon. Members volunteered to help with the mailing.

Cathy presented the updated NRI hard copy to members and said that another copy was given to the Clerk.

Members reviewed copies of the stormwater insert for the tax bill. Joan and Cathy had worked on it and could not use the fertilizer or car wash because they were too pixilated. “If you litter in the street, you might as well litter in the river” was used instead. The County can print 1500 of these for \$100. Members agreed to proceed with this.

Cathy met with Margaret Logreira at the Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) on February 6. Members reviewed the materials and discussed how we could get this information to the residents. We decided to contact RHA for an electronic copy of their flyer, add some West Amwell information, and distribute it at the Saturday garbage collection. We would also ask the High School to put the information on their listserv and would post it on the township’s website. Dave Clapp provided some information as he is a trustee of the RHA. The Commission decided that we would have this ready for the fall.

Our 2013 budget was discussed. We have enough to pay our ANJEC dues and the costs to print the stormwater insert.

The members briefly discussed the transition of the current website to a new one.

The only negative cadmium telluride google alert received so far was discussed. Art pointed out that this was for a warehouse. We will continue to monitor CdTe since we want to address the concerns of some residents.

The Clerk had requested that the EC might wish to take over the role of the Community Forestry Committee, perhaps as a subcommittee. Cathy explained the history of the forestry committee and what the current requirements were, including CORE training, an approved Community Forestry Management plan and an annual report. After considerable discussion, the commission decided not to take on the duties of the Community Forestry Committee.

ANJEC is currently offering Open Space Grants for Environmental Commissions. The members discussed possible projects and decided that information could be sent to residents about trails in the township and have an organized hike in the fall. Cathy to send a draft of the application/letter to the members prior to the next meeting or discuss at the next meeting. The deadline for applying is April 19.

Cathy again asked for a secretary to take the minutes. Members felt that with all that the Commission is doing that we should have a paid secretary. Charity said she would try to take minutes at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski