

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

April 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:35 pm.

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

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

Minutes of March 14, 2013 were approved.

Cathy announced that we are under budget having used only a thousand dollars of the ten thousand dollar Sustainable Jersey Small Grant. It was suggested that we use some of the grant money for newsletters promoting Conservation Easements to residents currently without them.

Cathy announced acquisition of a new camera with which we can take pictures of existing Conservation Easements. These photos can then be used in newsletters and future mailings to entice residents who do not currently have easements into creating one.

Well Water Testing Pamphlets given to the E.C. can not be used due to a lack of response from the Margaret Logreira. It was suggested that the project be postponed until next year to allow time for a response and better forms of information dispersal. Zuzov brought up the need for multiple sources for information dissemination, Charity agreed. Mailings, township website, Listserve, and social media has been suggested in prior meetings. Joan volunteered recreate informational materials into a leaflet to be handed out during Saturday garbage collection. It will include more specific information such as when and where residents can pick up the kits as well as prices and when and how the kits will be collected. She will also create a PDF version for electronic use.

Members discussed status the 319h grant. South is eager to begin work on the water detention basin rain garden. Money from the grant can also be used for a newsletter.

The Soil Removal Ordinance was brought up in conjunction with a query from a Lambertville business pertaining to removal and relocation of boulders from a West Amwell resident's property. The resident had boulders they wished to remove from their property and offered it to the business as outside seating and decoration. Members agreed that the ordinance should be upheld.

Joan introduced a new trend called "forest bathing", a practice in which people benefit from direct exposure to nature. She recommended that we post it to the township website to promote a renewed interest in conservation.

Cathy requested volunteers to help map out a new hiking trail on the Municipal Property. The path will traverse forty acres of the flat land. Members will meet on Saturday April 20th at 1:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Hall