

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

May 9, 2013

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

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

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

Members voted unanimously for Charity Hall as Secretary.

Minutes of April 11, 2013 were approved.

The Environmental Commission heard from our guest speaker Jade Green. Jade is the Watershed Ambassador for our area, her range extending from Milford down to Robbinsville along route 29. She will be testing water quality at five sites along the Alexauken Creek by way of collecting macro-invertebrates. Anyone is invited to join her on her expeditions. She will teach who ever goes how to identify the macro-invertebrates and what their presence means to the stream quality. If the commission wishes to do further stream testing separate from the Watershed Ambassadors program, Jade is willing to set up more in depth classes. Jade had already done a visual assessment of the sites. Jade will provide the Commission with her findings prior to the end of her term in July.

Our new member Dave Clapp took the Oath of Allegiance.

Progress on the Sustainable Jersey grant was discussed. Cathy and John Cronce, Chairman of the Open Space committee are working together to create a cohesive accounting of the approximately 100 conservation easements in the township. Samples of two of the easement monitoring forms were reviewed. This will be a welcome tool for future reference for the township and for residents, many of whom are not aware of the easements on their properties.

Margaret Logreira has given us permission to use the well water testing pamphlets, which will be reformatted by Cathy and Joan to fulfill our purpose for them. Our goal is to have them ready by August at which time Commission members will then take turns handing them out during the Saturday municipal garbage depot. We would like to have the testing done in September. Thanks to Dave for his help with this.

Still no news on the 319h grant; this is a long process. Dave confirmed that this is normal.

Nothing has been updated on the website as the current company in charge, Qscend, is currently backlogged with prior projects. They have stated that they should have a design by next Thursday (May 16, 2013). This set back with website updates hampers us from reaching the public through electronic newsletters. Due to a restricted budget we can not afford to print and mail them as we once did.

The budget should be approved at the next Township Committee meeting on 5/13. Cathy has asked for \$650.00, enough to cover ANJEC dues and the cost of printing the Stormwater inserts that will go out with the tax bills. After questioning paying our ANJEC dues and because of our restricted budget, Joan suggested not paying the dues this year and using that money instead for a printed newsletter. Discussion followed. After everyone has had time to review ANJEC's website the commission will vote on the matter.

The April 20 hike on the municipal property to delineate a trail was discussed. Baldino, Clapp, Hall, Urbanski and Zuzov attended. On that hike it was suggested that we restrict hunting to just bow hunting as hunters need to be 450 feet away from residences. After measuring from surrounding houses this restriction would only leave a small portion available for shotgun hunting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Hall