

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

October 10, 2013

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

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

Members absent – Clapp, Hall, Rich (TC liaison), all excused.

Minutes of September 12, 2013 were approved.

Opportunity for public comment – No members of the public were present.

The well water testing was a huge success. We ran out of test kits. Discussion as to whether or not to have yearly testing. We may poll residents as to their desire for yearly testing. Determination of testing to be made at a future date.

The map produced by Banisch for the SJ grant was reviewed. It was well received by the members. The Commission decided that a cover letter was necessary and that the parcels open to the public needed to be addressed. Cathy will produce the letter and have it printed and folded.

Volunteers were needed for the stuffing and labeling of the envelopes: Janice, Karen, Joan and Cathy volunteered. Date and time to be determined. The AAC will be helping with this as their “Farm Products for Sale” brochure will be included in the mailing.

Progress on the 319h grant was discussed:

Work has begun on the rain garden at South. Student involvement was not as expected.

The EC has \$15,000 to spend on education and outreach. Projects discussed were a newsletter with clean water/stormwater information and information on the specific projects of the grant, including a map of the Alexauken Creek watershed; a rain garden at the elementary school; rain barrel education and reduced price barrels for interested residents.

The curriculum for the elementary school after class “club” was discussed. The program will be held in January according to teacher Justin Holohan. The EC discussed the need for a “hands on” program rather than textbook learning. Janice brought information on Seed Bombs and the members agreed that this would be educational and fun for the children. Justin was planning to attend the EC December meeting, but the members thought that we needed to meet with him sooner.

The Planning Board application for the BNJ Ltd. Tract (Holcombe) was discussed, at the request of the Planning Board chair. After much discussion, our comment was that the proposed change would not affect the environment. Cathy had brought up the language in the MLUL and that there might be inconsistencies.

The environmental impact statement for applications was requested by the Commission members and Cathy will provide the members with this at the next meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski