

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

November 14, 2013

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

Members present – Longhi, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Zuzov, Dale (TC liaison).

Members absent – Baldino and Neufeld (excused), Clapp, Hall, Piel.

Minutes of October 10, 2013 were approved.

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

Sustainable Jersey Grant:

The map of preserved farms, open space, municipal properties and conservation easements was mailed to all residents of the township on October 23. Many thanks to Joan and Janice for their help with the mailing.

The members expressed interest in having the stream layer on the map. Cathy explained that the stream map was produced by Stonybrook Millstone and would try to get the data sent to Banisch.

\$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant money has been spent and has gone \$100+ over the grant funding. Discussion as to funding. Cathy will check with the CFO to see if the money can come from the Open Space budget. The grant stipulates that an easement stewardship plan be developed. Banisch has offered to help with this at no charge.

The map of preserved farms, open space, municipal properties and conservation easements, 24”X36”, has been displayed at the main meeting room of the municipal building.

Banisch has also said that they would help Cathy with the GIS software that is needed for WAT to view the layers of the map – at no additional charge.

Still needed for the grant is to have all of the conservation easements categorized and printed. The EC budget can do this. Final report for the grant is due in April 2014, with a template being sent by SJ in March.

319h Grant

The rain garden at South Hunterdon HS has been planted with native species of grasses, flowers and shrubs. Signage designed by Princeton Hydro was reviewed.

The project at “Orleans” which would have mitigated serious problems downstream was discussed at length. The owner of the detention basin which was to have a rain garden decided that the “clean look” of mowing was preferable to having native plantings and refused to allow the project to be done. Conservation easement on that property was discussed, Cathy will check the deeds. Dan offered to go to Hunterdon County Hall of Records to find the easement language if necessary. Princeton Hydro came up with an alternative approach which involved “streetscaping”. The commission did not think that this was a viable alternative. Cathy is to meet with Princeton Hydro on 10/21 to discuss this and other alternative projects.

The \$15,000 of the grant which has been allocated to the EC for education and outreach was discussed. Cathy would like to do a rain garden at the elementary school and will follow up on this idea.

Newsletter – deferred to 2014.

Environmental Impact Statement – provided to the members as per their request at the last meeting.

Elementary School “After the Bell”- Joan has taken charge of this and reported that she is meeting with teacher Justin Holohan next week. The “club” will be something associated with the Green Team, but named appropriately. Joan has decided that birds would be a good topic to get the children interested in nature. Her ideas were: feeders, a video about the feeder construction, bird sounds, etc. Janice had some creative ideas as to seed “pictures” which the children could make.

Readington Township request for our Well Water Testing flyer – was sent to them on 11/8. They were grateful.

ANJEC dues – we did not pay them for this year, but have the money in our budget to pre-pay for 2014. Members agreed to do this.

Sustainable Jersey – Due to be applied for again in 2014. Members to decide if we need to submit more documentation and discuss the value of doing so.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski