

Environmental Commission Minutes February 9, 2012

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairperson Urbanski.

In attendance: Baldino, Hall, Neufeld, Urbanski, Van der Veen.

Absent: Piel, Slowick, Smith-Casey.

Excused Absence – Rich (TC liaison)

Approval of minutes

The minutes from January 12, 2012 were approved, with corrections.

Opportunity for public comment

Janice Zuzov was present and contributed to the discussion throughout the meeting.

Business

Chairperson Urbanski gave an update on the status of the Sustainable Jersey certification. She had been contacted by SJ's Medea Villere to "correct our deficiencies" only to find out that West Amwell already had 190 points approved and just a link to the farmland preservation plan on the SADC website would give us 200 points. Ms. Villere stated that no municipality has ever been awarded so many points on their first submission and that we should be commended. Official notification is still a few weeks away.

The work on the 319h grant for the Alexauken Creek will probably begin around June.

The 2011 Annual Report to the Township Committee was presented at the 1/25 Committee meeting. The Committee wished it posted on the website – which has been done.

Chairperson Urbanski presented the binder of Invasive Species and Native Alternatives to the Commission. This was also presented to the Township Committee on 1/25 and permission was given to display it in the lobby of the municipal building and on the website and to share it with the schools. The members further discussed distribution of the material in CD format to local nurseries, the FFA and others.

The Commission continued the discussion of the content and appearance of their page on the new website, which is still under construction. We decided that an "Articles of Interest" section would be a useful place to put past newsletter articles and new articles, as needed. Cathy will bring copies of the old newsletters to the next meeting and the members will decide which to use/rewrite.

S1085 - Harvesting trees on Public Lands - is to be reintroduced on 1/30. The members discussed various means of disseminating the information, including the website, Facebook and 101.5 in order to inform the public. Cathy will prepare a resolution against the bill for the Township Committee's 1/22 meeting.

The members again discussed that, according to the MLUL, the Commission should be reviewing applications before the Zoning and Planning Boards. Chairperson Urbanski sent a letter, approved by the members via email, to the respective boards. The Planning Board was in favor of this and will send the Commission applications for review. The Zoning Board will only send us what they think would be appropriate. The members decided to seek the advice/opinion of ANJEC and NJPO.

The members briefly discussed the updating of the NRI. Some sections will need to be redone, but a considerable amount of the maps will need to be updated to the current 2007 NJDEP data. Cathy will work with the County GIS department for the updating of the maps.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.