

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

April 12, 2012

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

In attendance: Baldino, Hall, Neufeld, Rich (TC liaison), Urbanski, Van der Veen.

Absent: Piel, Slowick, Smith Casey, Zuzov.

The minutes of the March 8, 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Chairperson Urbanski reviewed the packet and CD received from Sustainable Jersey. She also noted that a news release was sent to the Hunterdon Democrat and an article was posted on the website. These were approved by the Township Committee on 3-28. Members commented that the news release should be sent to the Beacon also.

Chairperson Urbanski noted that Rob Piel and his staff had met with Princeton Hydro about the 319h grant for the Alexauken and had walked the various project areas. Rob and Cathy will meet to discuss this. Rob also sent a copy of the Grant Award for the "Implementation of Alexauken Watershed Plan" which had an approval of \$541,300 for the project.

Invasive Species/Native Alternatives Binder - Chairperson Urbanski reported that she had met with Justin Holohan (WAT Elementary) and had reviewed and presented the Invasive binder. It was very well received. Binder also presented to Sweet Valley Farms and it was appreciated. Art had contacted Macalroy Landscaping in West Amwell and they were interested in native alternatives. Cathy gave Art a CD with all of the invasive information and Art will print and deliver. Joan suggested that we have at least 5 more sets printed. Zach asked for 2 –one for the northern parks systems and one for Washington Crossing State Park.

The Commission reviewed the articles which will be placed on the website:

Bats – Don't be spooked

Coyotes in our Midst

Neotropical migrants are in West Amwell

Plastics – the good, bad and ugly

Rain Gardens

There's a Critter in my Attic

Why put yard waste in Landfills? – Compost

Wildlife babies – is our help needed?

Winter energy saving tips

Also an article written by Allison Kohler, Watershed Ambassador, on Non Point Source Pollution will be included. Becky had produced an article on Alternatives to Common Household Cleaning Products and that will be posted also. It was noted that Allison will be present at the Country Fair on 5/19 with a demonstration on non point source pollution and that she may attend the EC meeting on May 10.

Chairperson Urbanski reported that the S1085 Forestry Bill is on hold pending input from environmental groups and that there are public hearings scheduled.

The Commission discussed the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) which would need to be updated this year. After reviewing the current NRI, it was decided that very few changes need to be made, other than updating a few maps. Cathy will contact the Hunterdon County Planning Board for help with this, but will wait a while, because of the recent layoff of staff.

Discussion that Becky has a meeting conflict for the rest of the year. She will need to be replaced, but the Commission felt that she could be retained as an "associate member". Cathy will approach the Township Committee for approval.

Chairperson Urbanski distributed information on genetically modified organisms. A considerable discussion followed. This information was for internal use, for education of the members and the EC will not take a public stand on this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.