

Minutes for the Environmental Commission January 13, 2011

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 pm by Chairperson Cathy Urbanski.

In attendance: Baldino, Fisher (TC liaison), Hall, Neufeld, Piel, Slowick, Smith-Casey, Urbanski

Absent: Van der Veen

Welcome to new members.

New members Karen Baldino, Art Neufeld, and Becky Smith-Casey were welcomed onto the commission.

Oath of Allegiance

An oath of allegiance to the constitution of the United States and the State of New Jersey was administered by Chairperson Urbanski.

Nomination for Secretary

Committee person Slowick was elected commission secretary for 2011.

Approval of minutes

The commission minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Opportunity for public comment

There were no members of the public present for comment.

Business

1. Review of Renewable Energy Ordinance and Further Comments on Solar Application

Chairperson Urbanski reported to the commission that the zoning board requested commission feedback on the application for a solar facility that is currently before the zoning board.

The commission decided to use the proposed renewable energy ordinance as the basis of its feedback to the zoning board.

The commission chose not to simply send the draft ordinance to the zoning board because the application process started before the ordinance was approved and the zoning board expressed concern about applying the ordinance to an application already in progress.

The commission discussed feedback to the current application including the setbacks proposed in the current application, the screening plan in the application, ground cover plan, the decommissioning of the site, the maintenance of the site, and the applicability of the storm water ordinance.

The feedback was collected by Chairperson Urbanski and summarized in a letter to the zoning board.

Post-meeting note: The letter was reviewed by the commission via electronic mail and forwarded to the zoning board.

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2. Invasive Species

The commission has received permission to place posters of targeted species in the municipal building and at the waste depot. However, the project will be placed on hold until suitable photographs of the species can be obtained.

3. Sustainable Jersey

This is a commission initiative carried over from 2010.

Chairperson Urbanski summarized the progress to date and how to determine what needs to be done.

The commission members took an action item to review the Sustainable Jersey website to determine what sections of the certification application each member could review and if possible fulfill the application requirement so that the town could receive credit toward certification.

4. E-Waste Recycling

A recent communication from ANJEC indicated that separate recycling of waste computers is mandatory.

However, the West Amwell waste depot does not currently separate computers from the waste stream.

It was recognized that the requirement could only be fulfilled by going to the county transfer station which could be hardship in terms of travel and wait times.

Commission member Slowick agreed to take the issue back to the Recycling committee for further discussion.

Opportunity for public comment

There were no members of the public present for comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Minutes prepared by Jeffrey Slowick