

## **Environmental Commission Minutes November 10, 2011**

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairperson Cathy Urbanski.

In attendance: Baldino, Fisher (TC liaison), Neufeld, Slowick, Smith-Casey, Urbanski,  
Van der Veen

Absent: Hall, Piel, Strauss

### **Approval of minutes**

The commission approved minutes from October 13, 2011

### **Opportunity for public comment**

There were no members of the public present for comment.

## **BUSINESS**

- 1. Amendment to the Renewable Energy Ordinance** – The members discussed the 10/18 Planning Board comments and concerns. Questions had been raised by the Planning Board concerning the fencing exclusion for 10 or more ground mounted panels if the system is a minimum of 8’ above ground level. Art and Joan pointed out that some arrays are pole mounted 8’ above ground and there should be no need for fencing. The Commission agreed. As per the concern about prohibiting cadmium telluride panels – the Commission discussed this via email and concluded that the restriction be removed from the ordinance. Cathy will send the proposed ordinance amendment to the Planning Board.
- 2. Sustainable Jersey Certification** – On October 18 all of the Actions, totaling 200 points, were submitted for certification. SJ should let us know by the end of the year.
- 3. Invasive Species** – The Commission discussed the need for public education on the invasive plant species in West Amwell. Cathy has taken photos of the following: vetch, purple loosestrife, burning bush, multiflora rose, privet, stilt grass, smartweed, honeysuckle vine, wineberry, bamboo, English ivy, autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, celandine, garlic mustard and Norway maple, plus one that needs identification. Members were asked to provide a history and commentary of the plants (Jeff – purple loosestrife, Art – multiflora rose, Cathy-stilt grass, Karen – bamboo, Joan – autumn olive, Becky –norway maple) – these will be combined with the photos and displayed in the municipal building and on the website. Further discussion by Becky and Joan as to having West Amwell on Facebook so that the invasive information could be more readily available. Joan and Becky to coordinate this when the invasive information is more complete.

4. **Stormwater Training for Elected Officials** – As a member of the EC's Citizen Stormwater Advisory Committee, Cathy made a presentation on Nov. 7 to the Township Committee. The agenda was provided for the members.
5. **319h grant** – Nothing to report.
6. **Ordinance 15, 2011** – The township clerk requested that this ordinance be distributed to all members. The ordinance addresses attendance and vacancies at meetings. Brief discussion.
7. **Open to members** – Art discussed the possibility of using interns from Rutgers (particularly from the Environmental Engineering program) for projects in West Amwell, including the field work needed if we get the 319h grant. Discussion of possible projects.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.