

Environmental Commission Minutes December 8, 2011

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairperson Cathy Urbanski.

In attendance: Hall, Piel, Slowick, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Fisher (TC liaison),
Absent: Baldino, Neufeld, Smith-Casey, Strauss.

Approval of minutes

The commission approved minutes from November 10, 2011

Opportunity for public comment

There were no members of the public present for comment.

BUSINESS

1. **Sustainable Jersey Certification** –No news yet.
2. **319h grant for the Alexauken** - Notification received 12/08/11 that the grant had been approved for upward of \$500,000 to implement the proposed projects in the management plan to improve the water quality in the Alexauken Creek. Rob recommended contacting the original partners, calling Princeton Hydro and coordinating a meeting with them and the project manager from the DEP, Nick Zrebko. Cathy to follow up with this.
3. **Invasive Species** – Continuation of the Invasive Species Posters for public education, posting on the web site and placing information in the municipal building. Discussion and decision to contact the Beacon for monthly articles on Invasive Species. Cathy will contact the Beacon.

Assignments:

Jeff – purple loosestrife, possible giant hogweed; Karen – bamboo, privit; Joan – autumn olive, honeysuckle vine, bush honeysuckle: Rob – vetch: Art – smartweed; Cathy - burning bush, moneywort; Charity - wineberry, English ivy. Still need to get pictures of Canadian Thistle and Russian Olive and many others.

4. **A4358 – Bill would have the DEP to develop a forestry harvest program to provide for harvesting timber and forest products on State owned land.** Discussion that in WAT there are properties which are state owned - Alexauken Creek Wildlife Management Area, the former Water Co. property and Goat Hill Overlook. Decision to wait until the state designation for a forest stewardship plan/management area had been delineated.

5. A 3992 – Wind towers on preserved farms, up to 500 feet. – Commission review and comments to be sent to our legislators: That the EC disagrees with the fact that home rule does not supercede state regulation. Neighbors/ neighborhoods should have input into having 500’ wind towers in their environs.
Letter to follow to our Legislators concerning this.

6. NJ Fertilizer Law –Discussion and comments on the law: The Commission discussed that the law would be a good step toward reducing the run-off of fertilizer that occurs when the fertilizer is applied too later or too early in the season and that it would help preserve our marine resources which are being poisoned by the run-off.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.