

**West Amwell Township
Environmental Commission
February 10, 2011**

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

In attendance: Karen Baldino, George Fisher (TC liaison), Charity Hall, Art Neufeld, Cindy Strauss, Cathy Urbanski, Joan Van der Veen.

Absent: Rob Piel, Jeff Slowick, Becky Smith-Casey

Strauss took the oath of allegiance. New members were advised of the required training video, which the Chair will send.

Opportunity for public comment

There were no members of the public present.

Business

1. ANJEC Report – The EC needs to do an annual report (2010) and present it to the Township Committee. The members approved the following annual report:

Environmental Commission – Annual Report - 2010

1. **Arbor Day Celebration** –Shop Rite donated 300+ reusable shopping bags for WAT elementary students and teachers at the request of the EC. EC members coordinated and attended the celebration. The children present were very attentive and had many questions. A picture was taken of the fourth grade class with the re-useable shopping bags was published in the Beacon along with a description of the day's events. The children were given saplings and the theme was "Plant a Tree, Save a Tree".
2. **Zoning Board application review** – The commission reviewed the Mostofizadeh application and made recommendations.
3. **West Amwell Elementary Art project** – The EC Chair met with the art teacher for West Amwell Elementary and helped plan a nature art work exhibit to be done by fourth graders using non recyclable material.
4. **The Commission reviewed the Flood Mitigation Plan for the NJ section of the Delaware River Basin** - and it was determined that the plan contained errors. These errors were corrected.
5. **Green Team/Sustainable Jersey Certification** – The Commission continued with efforts to obtain certification.
6. **The Sustainability Element of the Master Plan** – The Commission produced a draft of the Element for the Planning Board.
7. **Invasive Species** – The Commission would like to further educate the township residents of this problem, and again, be able to provide information via the website, the listserv at South and handouts at the municipal garbage depot. Invasives were identified and work on the project was begun.

8. **Possible Reduction of Open Space tax** – The Commission held joint meeting with the Open Space Committee and determined that if the open space tax were reduced by 2 cents, the preservation program would be almost inoperable since all of the tax would be needed to service the current debt. The tax savings now would be minimal compared to the impacts of future development (new school, more services, etc).

9. **Stream Corridor Ordinance – Zoning Board Questions** – The Commission helped the Zoning Board of Adjustment with interpretation of the Stream Corridor Ordinance. The Chairman attended a ZBA meeting to clarify portions of the ordinance which were in question.

10. **Amendment to the Stream Corridor Ordinance** – the SCO was amended in order to have the hardship section be in accordance with the MLUL.

11. **4-H Fair** – several members attended and decided to make a joint effort with the East Amwell Environmental Commission next year.

12. **Review of Ziegenfuss application** - The Commission reviewed and made recommendations to the Zoning Board concerning Solar installations.

13. **Renewable Energy Ordinance** - The Commission produced a draft Renewable Energy Ordinance (Solar, Wind).

14. **Attendance at the ANJEC congress, 2010.**

The Environmental Commission will present this to the Township Committee at their next meeting.

2, **Renewable Energy Ordinance** – It was not adopted on 2-04-11 and is back to the planning board for further review. A discussion of the sections in question ensued, with comments by the EC.

3. **Sustainable Jersey** – An overview was provided by the Chair for the benefit of new members and to refresh the memories of the old members. The goal for 2011 is to achieve certification. The following assignments were made:

Green Team – Cathy, Charity, Cindy

Energy Audits – George

Wind Ordinance – Cathy

Sustainable Land Use Pledge – Joan

Farmland Preservation Plan – Cathy

Environmental Commission – Cathy

Natural Resource Inventory – Cathy

Open Space Plans – Art and Becky

Clustering Ordinances – Cathy

Community Forestry Plan/ Tree Hazard assessment –Karen

Tree Protection Ordinance – Cathy

Recycled Materials and Composting – Jeff

Recycling Depot – Jeff

Solar – George

Sustainable Master Plan Element – Cathy

Stream Corridor Ordinance – Cathy

Sourland Alliance - Cathy

Opportunity for public comment

There were no members of the public present.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski