

# **Minutes for the Environmental Commission**

## **May 12, 2011**

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chairperson Cathy Urbanski.

In attendance: Baldino, Hall, Neufeld, Piel, Slowick, Smith-Casey, Urbanski

Absent: Fisher (TC liaison), Strauss, Van der Veen

### **Approval of minutes**

The commission minutes from the April 2011 were not available for approval.

### **Opportunity for public comment**

There were no members of the public present for comment.

### **Business**

#### **1. Training Video**

Chairperson Urbanski asked new members if they had seen the training video.

Commission member Smith-Casey confirmed that she had seen the video and completed the appropriate paperwork.

#### **2. West Amwell Fair (May 14, 2011)**

The commission discussed the schedule for the manning of the EC table at the fair.

It was concluded that the commission table would be effectively covered for the duration of the fair.

#### **3. Sustainable Jersey**

Chairperson Urbanski reported on the status the Sustainable Jersey accreditation. It was also reported that if West Amwell wanted to be recognized at the November meeting in Atlantic City it had to complete the accreditation by August 26, 2011. It was concluded that the accreditation would not likely be completed by then.

The commission continued its discussion regarding the pledge to support the New Jersey wildlife plan that was reviewed by commission member Neufeld. The commission reviewed the pledge and noted that many of the provisions are already being done. The commission noted that the provisions of the pledge were already covered in existing ordinances within the town. The commission decided to accept the pledge. Chairperson Urbanski will submit the pledge to the Township Committee for their support in the form of a resolution in order to secure another 10 points.

The commission also discussed additional to the Sustainable Land use pledge. The commission will add agricultural open space to the definitions of mixed land uses. The commission agreed to accept the pledge. Chairperson Urbanski will submit the pledge to the Township Committee for their support in the form of a resolution in order to secure another 10 points.

The issue of mixed transportation and sidewalks was raised. It was determined that the pledge did not require the town to install sidewalks. But it was recognized that sidewalks should be considered when major subdivisions are planned.

The commission discussed the energy audit. The town hall and firehouse have been audited and the audit will count towards the Sustainable Jersey accreditation.

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The commission discussed the West Amwell Community Forestry Committee relative to the Sustainable Jersey accreditation. Commission member Baldino has been working with the chairman of the committee.

The commission discussed the action items for the recycling committee. Commission member Slowick noted that the committee is working on the visual aid to help depot patrons understand what is recyclable and what is not.

The commission discussed the status of the solar plan for the municipal property. It was reported by commission member Neufeld that some wetlands were noted by the DEP but that it was not anticipated to be an issue for the installation of the solar facility which is intended to power the municipal building and South.

The commission discussed submitting the West Amwell stream corridor ordinance as an “other” item for the Sustainable Jersey accreditation, but decided not to, since only two items could be submitted in the “other” category. The Sustainable Element to the Master Plan was considered, although there has been no recent guidance from Sustainable Jersey.

The commission would like to submit the township’s work with the Sourland Alliance as second of the two “other” submissions that the town is allowed for accreditation.

#### **4. Zoning and Planning Board Applications**

The commission discussed the review of site plans before the zoning and planning boards especially for the environmental impact for any of the applications.

#### **5. Fundraising**

The commission briefly discussed fundraising opportunities including a 319h grant available from the DEP. Commission member Piel to follow up on this.

#### **Opportunity for public comment**

There were no members of the public present for comment.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:09PM.