

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

June 9, 2011

Call to order

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

In attendance: Baldino, Fisher (TC liaison), Neufeld, Slowick, Strauss, Urbanski

Absent: Hall, Piel, Smith-Casey, Van der Veen

Approval of minutes

The commission discussed corrections to the April and May meeting minutes. Minor revisions were made to both. The minutes were approved.

Opportunity for public comment

There were no members of the public present for comment.

Business

1. **Celebrate West Amwell Country Fair (May 14, 2011)**

The scavenger hunt did not go as planned due to concerns about condition of the area in which the hunt was to take place. The commission briefly discussed the results of the fair and note from the mayor thanking the commission for its efforts.

2. **Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan and Sustainable Land Use Plan**

The commission reviewed the narratives that will be included with both pledges when submitted to Sustainable Jersey. There was brief discussion of the contents of each pledge. The commission agreed to accept both narratives.

The commission also reviewed the memo that is to accompany each pledge and agreed to accept the wording of each.

Chairperson Urbanski would ask the township committee to approve both pledges.

3. **Hart Information – Anti-idling initiative**

The initiative was tabled for another meeting.

4. **Possible 319h grant for Alexauken Creek**

Two possible targets have been identified.

However, it was recognized that some additional information was required from commission member who were not present at the meeting so the discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

5. **Green Team Narrative**

The commission reviewed the narrative that was prepared regarding the narrative that is needed to obtain credit from Sustainable Jersey for the West Amwell Green Team. The commission accepted the wording.

6. **Hydro fracturing**

The commission had been contacted by ANJEC concerning the potential for hydro fracturing within the Delaware basin. There was concern regarding potential damage to the basin by that activity. ANJEC urged its members to contact their representative and urge

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them the stop the initiative. However, since ANJEC's call to action went out the hydro fracturing the in the Delaware basin has been put on hold by the legislature.

7. Budget

The commission has \$400 in its budget. The commission agreed to use the budget money to pay its annual ANJEC dues.

8. Sustainable Jersey Small Grants.

Chairperson Urbanski reported Sustainable Jersey has small grants available for use towards one of the sustainable projects. The money could be used for community education and out reach. The deadline for the application is July 22nd. The commission will review the Sustainable Jersey website to look for potential grant opportunities and discuss at the next meeting.

9. Citizen Stormwater Advisory Committee.

The commission discussed the appointment of an Environmental Commission subcommittee: Neufeld, Van der Veen and Urbanski will serve as members.

10. Sustainable Jersey

Chairperson Urbanski reviewed the status of the West Amwell's efforts to achieve accreditation from Sustainable Jersey.

The commissions reviewed the status of the certification elements relating to energy audits, recycling depot, sustainable master plan elements. Currently, the commission has possible applications total 120 points towards the certification.

The commission currently plans to submit elements totaling 160 points. While only 150 points are required to achieve certification, the current plan does not include safety margin of extra points in case one of the applications is not accepted.

The commission discuss what other elements can be submitted to provide some cushion in case another submission is rejected.

The commission briefly discussed the potential for having West Amwell police department purchase a green vehicle for their next vehicle purchase. Such a purchase might count towards certification.

Opportunity for public comment

There were no members of the public present for comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:14PM.