

**West Amwell Township
Environmental Commission
April 8, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairperson Cathy Urbanski.

In attendance: Joel Coyne, Charity Hall, Rob Piel, Jeff Slowick, Cathy Urbanski, Joan Van der Veen.

Absent: George Fisher (TC liaison), Robin Myhre, Rob Tomenchok

Approval of minutes

There were minor changes to the minutes of the March 11, 2010. Chairperson Urbanski will make the changes and submit them to the town clerk.

Opportunity for public comment

No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

Green Team/Sustainable Jersey Certification

Chairperson Urbanski reported on her phone conversation with Ms. Medea Villere from Sustainable Jersey.

The Environmental Commission's (EC) concern that the program was more geared towards urban communities was communicated to Ms. Villere. Ms. Villere stated that a "one-size-fits-all" approach was used to develop the program but that approach has presented issues for non-urban communities such as West Amwell.

The sustainability element of the West Amwell master plan was discussed with Ms. Villere. Ms. Villere stated that they were giving credit for it. Chairperson Urbanski explained the contents to Ms. Villere who requested a copy of the document. The document is in draft and is to be shared with the planning board soon. The EC will review it first. Chairperson Urbanski will distribute the document to EC members after the meeting.

Ms. Villere suggested that the West Amwell woodlands ordinance would possibly qualify as a natural resource ordinance but that she would have to check into it to confirm that it is applicable.

Ms. Villere suggested that under the sustainable land use pledge, the EC could focus on bike and foot paths that are currently in place. Ms. Villere also wanted the EC to review new development plans and that the EC should request that they incorporate environmentally friendly planning such as car pooling and reductions in impervious cover.

The EC discussed several options for reducing impervious space specifically for parking spaces. These included flexible parking spaces, the use of parking mats, and the use of permeable coverage materials.

Chairperson Urbanski also discussed the stream corridor ordinance with Ms. Villere to determine if that was qualified for credit. Ms. Villere requested a copy of the ordinance so she could review it and let us know if it does qualify.

Composting was discussed with Ms. Villere. Ms. Villere suggested that the demonstration could be done at the transfer station since many of town's citizens go through the transfer station on trash day. The EC discussed distributing an education handout and doing a demonstration as suggested by Ms. Villere.

That concluded the summary of the discussion with Ms. Villere. It was decided that at the next EC meeting, the items for which West Amwell can get credit will be reviewed and members of the committee will discuss how to proceed.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant

No news yet. Still waiting.

Shoprite Donation

Shop Rite has donated the reusable shopping bags for WAT elementary students the children and teachers. The EC originally wanted to distribute the bags are part of an Arbor Day function. However, this year Arbor Day functions will be limited for budget reasons.

The possibility distribution of the bags at a school assembly was also discussed. However, during the next month there will be no school assemblies due to schedule standardized tests so that the distribution would have to wait until May or June.

In order to hand out the bags in May, the EC discussed having the bags distributed at school with a handout that described why the bags should be used.

However, the EC decided to wait for a May or June school assembly. Chairperson Urbanski will contact the school to arrange the assembly and to arrange the participation of a one of the teachers (Justin). Committee member Hall will help the teacher with the presentation.

Review of Flood Mitigation Plan for the NJ section of the Delaware River Basin

Chairperson Urbanski contacted a representative of the Delaware River Basin Commission the errors contained in the current draft of the Delaware River Basin Flood plan. The Flood Plan currently states that West Amwell had two repetitive flood properties along Swan Creek. The representative stated that the plan was based on data from FEMA and from insurance companies but agreed to recheck the information.

The representative followed up with Chairperson Urbanski and confirmed that the one of the properties was in fact Lambertville and not West Amwell and that the other property was an anomaly. The commission acknowledges that the plan is incorrect. Chairperson Urbanski presented this information to the Township Committee on April 7.

Idling/Air Pollution

Chairperson Urbanski acknowledged receiving information from EC members Piel and Myhre. The state already has regulations regarding engine idling. Committee member Piel felt that there was no need to adopt and ordinance unless it helped toward West Amwell's green certification.

The EC discussed either enforcing the state ordinances or develop a flier to educate the public.

Lead Information booklets from the EPA were provided by Joan Van der Veen for possible future public information/education.

New Business

Training Video for Volunteers

The training video was discussed. Many of the members have not yet watched it. The EC members who have not already view the video will watch it before the next committee meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment

One member of the public was present but that person did not have any comments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:36.

Minutes prepared by Jeffrey Slowick.