

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

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

In attendance: Charity Hall, Rob Piel, Rob Tomenchok, Cathy Urbanski, Joan Van der Veen.

Absent: Joel Coyne, George Fisher (TC liaison), Robyn Myhre, Jeff Slowick,

**Approval of minutes**

The approval of the minutes of May 13, 2010 was deferred.

**Opportunity for public comment**

No members of the public were present.

**Discussion on progress on Sustainable Jersey projects** – Charity wants to place the Green Team material on her Facebook page and wondered if we needed Township Committee approval to do so. The Commission decided to have Charity write the information and present it to the TC for their information and approval. We would hope to attract more volunteers to the Green Team by doing this.

Rob T. suggested that as part of community outreach and education we enlist the help of the boy scouts (11-18 yr/olds) as they have many community service requirements.

**Website discussion** –The EC members would like to be able to provide more information to the public, but this is not possible with our current website. The members thought that perhaps an Eagle Scout would be able to design a website for the township. Permission to pursue this will be brought up at the next Township Committee meeting.

**Invasive Species** – Joan started this discussion based on the booklet by the Sourland Planning Council, recently mailed to all residents, “Living in the Sourlands – A Guide for Responsible Stewardship”. All members agreed that most residents are not aware of the problem with invasive species or can even identify them. 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. Cathy will bring more invasive information to the next meeting and the EC will continue to explore ways to accomplish this.

**Possible Reduction of Open Space tax** – Cathy reported her meetings with the Open Space committee and supplied members with the minutes of the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. 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). Cathy will send the link to the ANJEC report "Open Space is a Good Investment" to the members.

**BP oil spill in the Gulf** – brief discussion by members.

**Sourland Municipal Alliance** – Cathy briefed the members as to the importance and progress of the Alliance. The upcoming Sourland Music Fest was also discussed.

**4-H Fair-** East Amwell's Environmental Commission has a table this year. The members decided that we should visit their table to see what they are doing and maybe next year plan to have a joint WA-EA venture at the Fair.

**EC 2010 Budget** – The EC has \$300 in the current budget. Members expressed interest in paying ANJEC's dues, since we did not pay last year. Cathy will contact ANJEC to see if a reduction in the dues payment is possible.

**Training Video for Volunteers** - has now been viewed by all of the EC members.

#### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:31.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski