

**West Amwell Township
Environmental Commission
August 12, 2010**

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

In attendance: Charity Hall, Robyn Myhre, Jeff Slowick, Rob Tomenchok, Cathy Urbanski, Joan Van der Veen.

Absent: Joel Coyne, George Fisher (TC liaison), Rob Piel.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of July 8, 2010 were approved.

Opportunity for public comment

No members of the public were present.

Green Team/Facebook– Charity discussed her ideas for the Green Team on Facebook. She will put together a description of the Green Team with various projects, links, etc. Before having it available for public viewing, the EC will review it. Township Committee approval will then be sought for the project. Discussion to see if the FFA would want to be part of the Green Team.

Discussion on progress on Sustainable Jersey projects – The following assignments were reviewed:

School-based Energy Conservation Programs – Rob T.

Education for Sustainability Programs – Joan, with Justin Holohan.

Sustainable Land Use Pledge – Cathy

Farmland Preservation Plans – Cathy

Natural Resource Inventory – Cathy

Open Space Plans – Cathy

Tree Protection Ordinance – we have – need someone to do.

Clustering Ordinance – we have – need someone to do.

Community Forestry Plan – we have – need someone to do.

Green Cleaning Products – Joel

Recycling Depot – Jeff

Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Ordinance – Jeff

Solar – Rob

Raingardens – Joan, with Justin H.

Website discussion –The Township Committee has given the EC the approval to pursue a new web site design. Rob T. will work with troop 49 and South and will contact the current webmaster, Dave Beaumont.

Invasive Species – Cathy had brought some additional literature on invasive species and the members continued their discussion from the last meeting. The decision was made to have an “invasive species of the month” sent via the school’s listserv and displayed at the municipal garbage depot. The following suggestions were made: “Wanted, dead or alive, preferably dead” and “Public enemy #1”.

4-H Fair – Rob, Joan and Cathy will attend and visit East Amwell’s table.

ANJEC DUES – Cathy bargained with ANJEC and the dues were paid in full for \$200.

Stream Corridor Ordinance – Zoning Board Questions – The Township Committee had asked the EC to help the ZBA with interpretation of the Stream Corridor Ordinance. This was prompted by an email from John Hoff, now a Zoning Board member. Cathy spoke with John, with ZBA chairman, John Cronic and with the ZBA attorney, Stewart Palilonis and also listened to the recording of the meeting in question. The questions raised were:

1. Which board should review and application for relief,
2. Is further review by the EC or TC required or optional,
3. Is a NJ licensed surveyor’s determination of the limits of the stream acceptable,
4. Where is the stream corridor measured from,
5. Is there a hardship clause.

The Commission members review the ordinance.

1. While it is clear from 109:38 and 109:38 which board hears the application, if further clarification is necessary, the SCO could be amended as follows: under “definitions” – add Approving Authority: the Planning Board (as per 109:38) and the Zoning Board of Adjustment (as per 109:49) as determined by the Zoning Officer. Then replace any section where the jurisdiction is in question with “Approving Authority”.
2. Further review is required as per the ordinance
3. Licensed surveyor is acceptable.
4. Section 3.A.1-3 of the ordinance defines the measurement.
5. Section 6 of the ordinance defines hardship

It was also discussed that the Planning and Zoning Boards are required by the MLUL to have the EC review applications.

Cathy will attend the next Zoning Board meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski