

**West Amwell Township  
Environmental Commission  
October 8, 2009**

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

In attendance: Joel Coyne, Charity Hall, John Hoff, Robyn Myhre, Rob Piel, Cathy Urbanski, Joan Van der Veen.

Absent: Carol Cavanaugh, Dan Longhi, Ron Shapella

**Approval of Minutes**

On a voice vote of all ayes, the minutes from 9-10-09 were approved.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** no members of the public were present.

**Old Business**

**1. Green Team and Sustainable Jersey** – Discussion of the Land Use Pledge and that it is not appropriate for our township, and other requirements for West Amwell. We discussed the need to contact “Sustainable Jersey” and ask them to consider rural communities, since the sustainable aspect is primarily geared to developed communities. Joan and Cathy will work on a letter to Sustainable Jersey discussing priorities for rural communities. Members decided that we should contact other rural communities in our area to see what they are doing, especially East Amwell and Delaware Townships.

**2. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant** – Discussion that the application has been submitted, but we have not heard if we have been considered for the grant.

**3. WAT Elementary School Artwork** – The Art teacher is in favor of posters with a green theme. Members decided that a “Nature in my Backyard” theme would be appropriate. Cathy will convey this to the Elementary school.

**4. Shoprite Donations** - Charity had contacted Shop Rite for donations of reusable shopping bags for WAT elementary students. She reported that “I talked to Rob Skuraton and he said to use letter head either from the school or from the EC, and to write a letter requesting the donation. He said it should be no problem and asked when we wanted it by which I don't know. I guess in the letter just explain to him what we are trying to do what we desire from them and of course how many students there are. After that I can take it to work with me and give it to Corporate and they will run it passed Joe Colalilo.” Cathy to contact the Elementary School to determine the number of students involved.

**5. Alexauken Creek Flooding** – Previous decision to have South do monitoring, but Rob suggested the following:

Did the developer obtain flood hazard permits/have a stormwater management plan?

Currently the stormwater ordinance/management plan has to show that there is no post construction increase in runoff. Orleans was built prior to our current regulations (which are stricter than previous).

Unless Orleans checked the flow before the development was built and then after, it would be impossible now to prove anything from an engineering perspective. It may, however have been done.

His suggestions for the landowners to consider:

1. The Soil erosion and Sediment control (NRCS) can look at the situation to see if there has been any increase in erosion and whether there needs to be stabilization. They have enforcement authority. Farmers are generally familiar with NRCS.
2. Check on the municipal level to see if a stormwater management plan was approved – and if there was, there should be a requirement to maintain it. The Township Engineer could check to be sure that it was working as originally approved.

## **New Business**

**1. Budget** - The Commission decided that the funds allotted to us would be best served by giving them back to the Township, considering the fiscal crisis.

**2. Environmental Impact Statement** - Planning Board requested us to produce one. Considerable discussion by the EC members as to how to proceed, with final consideration that it should be simple and concise and we will review all of the ordinances to determine if an EIS is required. John and Cathy will work on this.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** no members of the public were present.

A motion to adjourn was made and on a voice vote of all ayes, the motion passed and the meeting ended at 9:00 pm.