

**West Amwell Township
Environmental Commission
March 12, 2009**

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

In attendance: Carol Cavanaugh, Joel Coyne, Charity Hall, John Hoff, Robyn Myhre, Cathy Urbanski.

Absent: Dan Longhi, Rob Piel, Ron Shapella, Joan Van der Veen.

Approval of Minutes

On a voice vote of all ayes, the minutes from 1-08-09 were approved, with corrections.

(Note: the February meeting was cancelled).

Opportunity for Public Comment: Karen Baldino was present and Dickson Munds came in while the first order of new business was being discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER FOR THE EC. Karen Baldino had expressed interest in becoming an associate member. Cathy praised her previous work on other committees and her strong work ethic and her strong interest in the environment. A discussion followed. EC members discussed limiting the numbers of associate members. ANJEC allows for associate members: pros and cons were discussed, associate members cannot vote, but can take part of discussions. A vote was taken to have Karen Baldino be an associate member of the EC: all in favor except John Hoff. Karen joined the members.

Dickson Munds presented himself as a member of the public wishing to possibly be an associate member. Because of the uncertainty of the limit of associate members and because the EC had not formalized the criteria for associate members, Mr. Munds was invited to attend the meeting to see if an associate member might be something which he was interested in. Mr. Munds sat as a member of the public for the entire meeting.

2. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF WEST AMWELL
Preliminary information from the Planning Board indicates that the NRI will be used for "Data gathering and Site Analysis" and a reference would also be included in the Master Plan. This information has not been voted on or finalized.

3. SUSTAINABLE LAWRENCE – REPORT BY ROBYN

Robyn had attended a seminar on Sustainable Lawrence on 1/29: Lawrence sustainability takes into account all parts of the system in trying to prevent their resources from being depleted. A large community with involvement from the schools, churches and community at large with all programs being tied together. Goals as to what they wanted their township to look like, with subcommittees working co-operatively. Certification for clean lawns, using no pesticides, just natural means. Building awareness over time, outreach, Sustainable

Lawrence Committee. Joel and Robyn discussed that it must be a community wide project. Discussion of Green Team as essential. Sustainability vs. Regenerative discussion.

4. EAST AMWELL – NRI

East Amwell's EC had contacted Cathy for help with their NRI. A CD of our NRI was provided at their request. They were directed to ANJEC for municipal NRIs for their consideration

OLD BUSINESS

1. CASE/HOLCOMBE FARMS WATER ALLOCATION PERMITS

Discussion of the 3/3 meeting with Cathy, Mayor Corboy, representatives of the DEP, SADC and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. DEP discussed the problem of water constraints, salt plume problems and impact of neighboring wells since no aquifer testing was done. The DEP, after reviewing our letter of concern, took serious review of the matter and reduced the water allocation to both farms to an agricultural registration vs. a DEP permit. The water allocation for both farms was reduced to a maximum of 3.1 mgm. There will be inspections by the DEP as per the water usage, also a requirement to keep records of the water draw. The probable usage of the properties will be probably for horses or reduced vegetable production or fruit trees. The DEP said that the farm usage cannot affect neighboring wells.

2. SUSTAINABLE JERSEY, GREEN TEAM

Discussion of Sustainability Jersey grant program and the need to be registered (we have been registered) and to create the mandatory Green Team. Discussion of the grants, highly competitive in nature. Does the EC want to pursue this? Walmart is sponsoring the grants, discussion as to the question as to whether they are environmentally friendly or going green just to save money. Decision that Ron write the grant proposal and see if we qualify and then work on the education and outreach booklet which we had previously discussed. EC members to decide on topics to be included, some were discussed. The booklet would be specific to our township. Decision to do this and work on the certification for Sustainable Jersey.

Discussion that the Green Team need to be formed, but that the EC can be named as the Green Team, but the desire of the EC would be able to recruit persons from other residents/groups in the Township. Decision to have the EC be named as the Green Team and have it be part of the EC meetings.

3. NEWSLETTER

Our budget will not allow for us to do a newsletter this year, discussion as to do it and have it placed on the website. Cathy mentioned that there was a member present (who wished to remain anonymous) who offered to pay up to \$500 to have the newsletter printed and mailed. Fundraising was discussed. Cathy said that anything would go into the general slush fund. Karen said that the funds raised for a purpose would go specifically for that purpose. Discussion as to asking the township to study the need for a bulk permit. A discussion of improving the website followed.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No public comments were made.

A motion to adjourn was made and on a voice vote of all ayes, the motion passed and the meeting ended at 8:48 pm.