

**West Amwell Township  
Environmental Commission  
June 11, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairperson Cathy Urbanski.

In attendance: Carol Cavanaugh, Charity Hall, Dan Longhi, Robyn Myhre, Ron Shapella, Cathy Urbanski, Joan Van der Veen.

Absent: Karen Baldino, Joel Coyne, John Hoff, Rob Piel.

**Approval of Minutes**

On a voice vote of all ayes, the minutes from 3-12-09 were approved.  
(Note: the April and May meetings were not held due to lack of a quorum).

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** Rich Anthes, Watershed Ambassador from the NJ Americorp (domestic peace corp) hosted by the Stonybrook Millstone Watershed Association was present. He is responsible to and reporting to the DEP on stream data analysis and public outreach. Part of the public outreach is to attend meetings in the watershed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Green Futures Grant** – We did not apply for it.

**2. Newsletter** – We have no money in our budget to publish and mail a newsletter, but can make it available on the website. Topics discussed – Cathy –snakes; Charity – recycling; Threatened and Endangered species – Carol; bird watching – Joan; Farmer’s Market re-cap-Cathy; also Green Team info. We may ask Open Space to put a reference to our newsletter on the website in their newsletter. We also still may have a “donor” to help with the costs. Decision made to have newsletter come out in late October.

**3. Sustainable Jersey** – Green Team discussed as being mandatory. We have a resolution naming the Environmental Commission as the Green Team, but we would like to attract other members from the township. The members discussed the certification process for becoming “Sustainable”. Members to study the various categories, but the Green Team is most important. The commission decided to try to involve the schools in the Green Team. Members are to study to green team element from Sustainable Jersey and report at the next meeting with ideas.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Sustainability Element for the Master Plan** - Joan discussed the need to add a sustainable element for the re-examination of the Master Plan and discussed what needs to be done. Joan and Cathy volunteered to do this as a subcommittee of the EC and work together to get it completed.

**2. Water Quality Standards changes** – Rob was to comment on this, but was not available. Information from DEP and Riverkeeper was not available.

**3. Discussion of Block 12, Lot 44, new septic** – Concern that testing was not done during the wet season because of the severity of the soils for septic suitability. Cathy will contact the County Health Department.

**4. Assembly Bill A3239 was discussed** – Ron brought up the fact that the bill would allow for farmland assessment for woodlands which were in an active program to preserve and sustain the forests rather than have them managed with a woodlot management plan. This translates that woodlands can qualify for the tax break if they are in a sustainable plan to restore the forest, rather than in a program which would require selective harvesting of the trees. The woodlot management plan would still qualify, but there would be additional incentives to participate in the woodlands sustainable measure. The EC decided that a letter should be send to representatives in favor of this bill. Ron will draft a letter.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** No further 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 8:45 pm.