

**West Amwell Township
Environmental Commission
August 13, 2009**

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

In attendance: Charity Hall, John Hoff, Dan Longhi, Robyn Myhre, Ron Shapella, Cathy Urbanski.

Absent: Carol Cavanaugh, Joel Coyne, Rob Piel, Joan Van der Veen.

Approval of Minutes

On a voice vote of all ayes, the minutes from 7-07-09 were approved.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Newsletter – Cathy’s snake article was discussed and suggestions were made to include other native snakes. It was noted that the municipal budget had still not been approved and that we have no funds to pay our ANJEC dues and that the newsletter will probably not be published unless we just post it on the website. The newsletter is on hold for now. Green Team article from Robyn and the Farmers Market from Cathy is pending.

2. Recycling - Charity questioned why certain flower pots and other materials were not recyclable, why styrofoam with numbers cannot be recycled, also motor oils, refrigerated cardboards. Charity questioned as to the money generated from recyclables. Discussion as to contacting the local nurseries to recycle the flower pots.

3. Green Team and Sustainable Jersey – Discussion of mandatory requirements. Decision to have the EC review the “Sustainable Land Use Pledge”. Cathy will send info to the members for their consideration.

4. Sustainable Element of the Master Plan – Discussion of the element that Cathy and Joan had come up with and how Sustainable Jersey is geared more toward urban rather than rural areas. Question as to whether we should contact them to object to their standards and ask for a change. Discussion as to chemicals from farming and to the quality of runoff being sent into the streams.

5. Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants Program – Discussion as to possibly applying for an out reach project for Sustainable Jersey Program/Green Team certification. Also discussed carbon sequestration: an inventory of open lands, how the trees reduce greenhouse gasses, a ranking system for identifying land for preservation, tree planting in residences and schools. Members to decide what they wish to do by August 12 (via email).

New Business

1. Trails System, Water Company Property – Cathy showed maps of the proposed trail system proposed by D&R Greenway in conjunction with the properties preserved by Green Acres. She had met with their reps and explained the problem with access. The idea was to have a trail system from the Howell Farm through the United Water Co. property to Lambertville.

2. Discussion of the Silvi property having been recently been preserved which adjoins the Supreme 10 property. Discussion of Hunterdon Parkland Preservation (via Hunterdon Land Trust) and the trails system which has been proposed there. Discussion as to horseback riding and trail bike useage. Need to inventory the plants and endangered species there and update this. Dan questioned which plants were endangered and it was explained that they were purposely not included in the NRI so as not to have them identified and probably picked.

3. Meeting with WAT Elementary - Cathy mentioned that she would be meeting with the principal of the school to try to involve the children in environmental matters. All EC members were urged to attend the meeting on 8/26.

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 8:17 pm.