

Minutes for the Environmental Commission

January 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 pm.

Members present – Clapp, Hall, Longhi, Neufeld, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Zuzov.

Members absent – Piel, Dale (TC liaison), both excused.

Nomination for Secretary – Charity Hall was elected.

Oaths of Allegiance were sworn for newly re-appointed members Clapp, Hall and Van der Veen

Minutes of December 12, 2013 were approved

No members of the public were present.

\$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Small Grant – Easement inspections are close to completion. Once done, they will be incorporated into a printed file. The stewardship plan for the easements was discussed: the EC will monitor the sales of properties in the township and identify those which have an easement. Those residents will then receive information on easement protection and also information on septic systems.

319h grant – The Commission is still waiting to hear from Princeton Hydro as to the need to research the deed for the second detention basin in the Orleans development. This basin has a conservation easement on it.

Newsletter – The members discussed ideas for the newsletters. Education/outreach would initially focus on a description and the importance of the Category 1 Alexauken Creek, the 319h grant objectives, the rain garden at South and other topics. A map of the Alexauken would be included.

Information about trout fishing in the Alexauken was discussed. This could tie in with the grant mitigation projects to lower the water temperature, thus allowing for trout maintenance and improved habitat. Portions of the Alexauken are currently being stocked. Pictures of the Creek and areas where fishing is permitted would be provided.

Well water testing, the importance of/pictures of water birds, water plants and water animals would also be included in the newsletters.

A trail map and trail description of one of the many trails in the township could be included. Goat Hill was discussed especially since it overlooks the Delaware River and the Alexauken drains into the river.

Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee – Art, Joan and Cathy were reappointed.

The members discussed another stormwater insert for the tax bill. Topics included detergents, pesticides, and other such chemicals which can run off into creeks and river and pollute the water. This information could also be used in the newsletter.

Joan and Cathy will work on this project.

2013 Annual Report to the Township Committee – The members reviewed the document and approved its submission to the Township Committee and its placement on the website.

JCP&L Substation report from subcommittee – the subcommittee reported the following:

1. The alternative analysis for the wetlands Individual permit should address alternate locations for the detention basin. The basin should be relocated outside of wetlands or eliminated. It does not make sense to fill waters of the state to protect the water quality of waters of the state. Volume control should be managed outside of environmentally sensitive areas.
2. Vernal habitat has been identified onsite by the Natural heritage program. The location of the vernal pond has not been shown on the site plan. A survey for other vernal habitat should be required during the appropriate time of year to identify other potential areas. Any impacts to vernal habitat should be eliminated.
3. Mitigation should be required for all wetland and vernal pool impacts and occur within the same watershed as the disturbance.
4. The alternative analysis should address using upland areas to the west of the proposed location to move the facility out of wetlands and further away from transition areas and riparian zones.
5. Mitigation for riparian zone disturbance should be required and located as close to the impact as possible.
6. A timing restriction for cutting trees should be added to the permit to avoid impacts to the habitat of the federally endangered Indiana bat.

Cathy will compose a letter to the DEP with the above recommendations and forward the letter to the Planning Board at Art's recommendation.

Elementary School After the Bell program – Members still undecided as to whether to proceed.

ANJEC dues for 2014 – Paid from 2013 budget.

Sustainable Jersey re-certification - Brief discussion. Decision to continue at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski