

## Minutes for the Environmental Commission May 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:32 pm.

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

Members excused – Clapp, Piel, Dale (TC liaison).

Members absent – Hall.

Minutes of April 10, 2014 were approved.

No members of the public were present for comment.

The Commission noted with regret the passing of Dave Clapp's father.

**\$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Small Grant** – Final report received by SJ. No further communication.

**319h grant** – Members discussed at length the possible projects for education and outreach, since as per the grant, we have been allocated \$15,000 for this purpose. After much discussion, the Commission decided that water oriented instruments/devices/netting, etc. to study the macroinvertebrates in the Alexuaken would be worth pursuing. South Hunterdon has a biology program which does this type of assessment and we could partner with them on this project. Janice volunteered to contact the science teacher. We would need a list of items with the cost of each. This would then be submitted to the DEP and that money would be deposited in our account. Many other suggestions were discussed: contacting Stonybrook Watershed, Justin Holohan at the Elementary School, the Delaware Riverkeeper and an organization in central PA which Dan was familiar with. Also discussed were the purchase of rain barrels and a video of the Alexauken, with some reaches highlighted (along Alexauken Creek Road) and a before/after of the decommissioning of the dam at the Alexauken Wildlife Management area. Dan will contact a videographer with whom he will be meeting with in a few days. Suggestions were that the video could be made available to the schools with perhaps a community viewing. Decision made to contact former Watershed Ambassador, Jade Green and our new Ambassador for suggestions.

Concerns were raised that the grant projects were progressing very slowly, if not at all. Members expressed the need for monthly or quarterly updates from Princeton Hydro as to their accounting. Cathy said that she had just received an email from Steve Souza, with detail about the dam decommissioning. Members requested the file and Cathy will send it. It was decided to have Mr. Souza attend our next meeting to give a progress report.

**Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification** – Cathy reported that she finally received the 2013 tonnage report in order to complete the recycling action and submitted all of the actions for re-certification today. Members expressed interest in the tonnage report, which will be sent to them.

**Stormwater Information for Residents** – Information has been included in the newsletter. We may need other options for compliance. The EC subcommittee is to consider the options. Discussion with Joan about a radio interview concerning stormwater. Cathy will provide the requirements at the next meeting.

**Ordinance Review:** When the Planning Board has their final draft, we will review the Woodlands Ordinance.

**Recycling of Batteries** – West Amwell gets paid a small sum for the batteries. The recycling committee is willing to take the batteries collected at ShopRite.

**Used Medication Disposal** - Janice had questioned if WAT had a program to take back unused medications. Members offered that the County had such a program and that it was administered by the County Sheriff office, with one drop box in Flemington. Also local pharmacies offer this service for a fee.

**Recycling** – Members expressed the need to educate the public on recycling. It became apparent that many residents do not know that WAT's recycling of single stream, electronics and batteries does not incur a fee. Some residents apparently think that if a trash card is not purchased, they are not entitled to use the recycling depot. Matter and concerns to be referred to the Recycling Committee.

No members of the public were present for comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski