

## **Minutes of the Environmental Commission May 14, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:02 pm.

Members Present – Clapp, Hall, Haug, Longhi, Neufeld, Urbanski,  
Van der Veen, Dale (TC liaison).

Members Absent – Piel, Zuzov.

**Approval of minutes** – April 9, 2015, approved, with corrections.

**Opportunity for Public Comment** – no members of the public were present for comment.

### **Business:**

#### **319h Grant:**

Discussion of the problems with getting DEP to meet with Princeton Hydro to discuss the grant projects and permits. Two meetings since the last EC meeting were cancelled with very short notice. Steve Souza finally met with Jay Springer, Watershed Management and Pat Gardner, Director of Water Monitoring and Standards on May 12. They appeared sympathetic to our frustrations. They tentatively approved that plans for the municipal property and removed the proposed detention basin projects at the Hills of Hunterdon.

The Alexauken Creek dam project was being stalled because of the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Officers) requirement for an archeological survey, (because of the proposed removal of the dam) and the DEP dictate that the township, not the grant, fund this survey. Steve suggested that rather than remove the dam, repair it and modify it so that it no longer will allow the shallow pond to hold water. This would then also eliminate the need for the archeological survey. DEP members looks favorably on this idea. EC is awaiting further information.

Mr. Souza is to provide the updated plan for the municipal property and Cathy will present this to the Township Committee at their next meeting.

#### **Woodlands Ordinance mitigation – JCP&L:**

Information from Janice on pollinator friendly plantings was presented to the township committee on 4/15 and the material was forwarded to Parks and Rec. EC members reviewed these documents. Cathy received an email this week forwarded from the Clerk from Bill Burr, the township engineer. Bill requested EC input on plantings for the municipal property. We had already suggested that the

plantings be kept at Hewitt Park and not for the municipal property (maintenance and 319h grant plantings). The Clerk was asked to provide this information to the engineer, again.

**PennEast proposed pipeline:**

The members discussed West Amwell resident Mike Spille's plans to form a WATCAP (West Amwell Township Citizens Against the Pipeline) group. He is contacting residents and hopes to have a citizens group formed soon. Cathy was asked to work jointly with Mike on this project, but was advised against it because of a conflict of interest with her involvement on the Township pipeline committee.

**NRI Update:** Joan and Cathy will do soon.

**Open Space update:** Funding has been restored.

**ANJEC dues:** paid.

**Proposal by Rutgers Eco-Complex:**

EC members discussed an assessment to be done by Rutgers Eco-Complex regarding anaerobic digestion of organic waste. Rutgers would apply for a \$20,000 USDA Rural Development grant to ascertain the feasibility of working with a local dairy farmer to utilize the manure along with restaurant waste to produce biogas, fertilizer and compost.

Dave and Art were familiar with similar projects utilizing strictly manure. Members discussed the positive aspects of reducing waste, but withheld any comment until they receive further information. Rutgers will be presenting at the Board of Health meeting on 5/28 and members were invited to attend.

**Algonquin and Texas Eastern Permit application for Statewide Pipeline Maintenance Project:**

Members briefly discussed the maintenance plans.

**Open to members for further discussion:**

Art noted that at the planning board meeting discussion of Lot 3 block 21, the EC's comments were addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski