

## **Minutes of the Environmental Commission July 9, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:03 pm.

Members present – Clapp, Haug, Neufeld, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Zuzov, Dale (TC liaison).

Members absent – Hall, Longhi, Piel.

**Approval of minutes** – May 14, 2015, approved.

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

### **Business:**

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

Recent emails were provided to the Commission (Steve Souza, Nick Zripko, and Jay Springer) as to the status of the proposals for the grant. Email confirmation was received from the DEP indicating that the substitution of the plan for the municipal property for the 2 retention basins at Orleans was approved. Members reviewed the plan and a discussion followed. Of concern by the members and the Township Committee on 5/20 was the cross drain. Cathy spoke with Steve today and expressed our concerns: maintenance, gravel road with miscellaneous items falling through the grate, etc. Steve agreed to use a pipe underground to deflect the water coming from the step stones.

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

Cathy has been in communication with Zach Rich and the Township engineer, Bill Burr. The decision has been made to propose an escrow account to provide for the future plantings on the municipal property/Hewitt Park. Municipal plantings would coordinate with the 319h grant. Hewitt is a compromise situation, since there are wetlands involved. An EC member questioned if the trees planted in the median of Music Mountain Blvd. would qualify for planting trees, as the plum trees planted there by Calton were all dying. Cathy will bring this to the attention of the Township Committee at their next meeting, 7/15.

#### **PennEast proposed pipeline:**

Brief discussion as to updates, formation of the WACAP (West Amwell Citizens Against the Pipeline).

**Proposal by Rutgers Eco-Complex:** Art, Janice, and Cathy attended the Board of Health meeting on 5/28. The proposed food-dairy waste system is for the Fulper home farm. Food waste from a 25 miles radius would be used. Rutgers has a \$20,000 grant to study the feasibility. Art referred to this as a “Science Project”. Members decided to wait till the study is done before further comment.

**NRI Update:** Joan and Cathy will do this month, promise.

**Soil Removal Ordinance:** John Dale brought up the JCP&L substation where there was much subsoil to be disposed of. There was no place on the property to dispose of such. Cathy spoke that she had been in contact with the township engineer and clarified that the intent of the Soil Removal Ordinance was only for topsoil. If the ordinance is not clear, the EC will address this at their next meeting. Note: the sub soil was contaminated with lead and will be sent to a PA landfill.

**March/Rally against the Penn East pipeline:** Joan asked for volunteers. The event is to take place on August 22, 2015 in Milford, NJ.

**SADC Letter** – A letter proposed by Mike Spille was discussed. Some members did not wish to follow through with this as the township has a relationship with the SADC/ funding for farmland preservation. Note: Dave Clapp recused himself from this discussion and left the meeting before the discussion started. Cathy will bring this up for discussion at the next Open Space meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski