

## **Minutes for the Environmental Commission September 10, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

Roll call: Haug, Piel, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Zuzov, Dale (TC liaison)

Members excused – Neufeld

Members absent – Clapp, Longhi, Hall.

Minutes – July 9, 2015 –Approved.

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

### 319h grant for the Alexauken Creek:

Cathy discussed her meeting on August 13 with DEP officials Nick Zripko, Jay Springer, and Dave McPartland and the meeting on August 21 with Dr. Steve Souza. We also discussed the subsequent emails from the DEP on the grant projects.

On 8/13 the DEP initially stated that there would be a one year extension on the grant, with apologies for the changing of management for the grant for the last year. Subsequent emails said that the extension was not necessary at this time.

They were in favor of the municipal property project, but asked that we seriously consider the dam/lake area in the Conservancy/Foran/Nelson/Whiting Lake area. Their idea was to pump deeper, cooler water near the dam.

They also requested that contact be made again with Bill Kiriluk. Cathy contacted him and his interest was the same as previously – straighten out the creek, do nothing to prevent his cows from entering the creek.

They were very unreceptive to the project in the Alexauken Creek wildlife mgmt. area. After the August 13 meeting they visited the site of the Alexauken Creek Wildlife Area Dam and concluded that this project would be a major undertaking with little temperature improvement to the watershed. Mr. Zripko also stated that the 319 (h) program would not fund the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) required Phase I survey component of this project. They require that West Amwell pay for the archeological survey, which we will not do.

The DEP is requiring an addendum to the Watershed Protection Plan, budget modification, and a revised scope of work among other items.

Cathy met with Dr. Souza on 8/21 and discussed the above with him

EC members discussed the proposals for the grant projects and the problems with the DEP staff. All agreed that the lake area/pump project was not viable. Decision to discuss again with Dr. Souza and try to at least get the municipal property project in the addendum.

Hunterdon Land Trust, easement monitoring:

We had received an email from Hunterdon Land Trust requesting volunteers to be trained for the purpose of monitoring easements and how to go about it using maps and GPS units. HLT and West Amwell are part owners, along with Green Acres of two easements in the township, adjacent to the Alexauken Creek Management area. No members of the EC felt that they had the time to commit to the monitoring.

CAP Letter to NJDEP:

Members had been provided with a letter sent to the DEP from the various Citizens Against the Pipeline groups in NJ. The letter urged the DEP to deny PennEast's request to submit an incomplete NJDEP application. Cathy brought a shortened version which the members reviewed. Rob offered to edit it the next day. Cathy will get it in the mail next week.

NRI:

Joan and Cathy completed the 2015 update. It is now on the website.

Possible amendments to the Woodlands and Soil Removal ordinances:

Carried to the October meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski