

## Minutes for the Environmental Commission March 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Members present: Beaumont, Clapp, Haug, Urbanski, Van der Veen, Dale (TC liaison).

Members excused: Neufeld, Piel, Zuzov.

Members absent (with reason): Andreoli.

Approval of minutes – the minutes from February 11, 2016 were approved, with corrections.

No members of the public were present for comment.

Final approval was given by the NJDEP to proceed with the projects for the 319h grant for the Alexauken Creek. Members discussed first the municipal property: Cathy provided design plans from prior meetings, and we are waiting for the final design from Princeton Hydro.

Members discussed at length the Kiriluk property project. Cathy had met with Bill Kiriluk and Steve Souza on 3/7 to discuss the plans for the property. The main focus will be addressing the major stormwater runoff from Route 202 onto the Kiriluk field. This has created a wide ditch which drains into the Alexauken Creek bringing with it heated and contaminated water. There are also two right angle bends in the creek creating a U-shape with serious erosion. An agreement was reached with Mr. Kiriluk, that the stream banks would be planted with trees in order to stabilize them and prevent further erosion. A meeting has been set with Bill, Steve, and Cathy on 3/25 to walk the farm. Dave Clapp will also attend.

Cathy had brought a copy of the 2011 Alexauken Creek Watershed Protection Plan prepared by Princeton Hydro. Dave Clapp reviewed it.

Members then discussed the Music Mountain (The Estates at West Amwell) median strip planting: Sweet Valley Farms had provided a design for both ends and the middle of the strip. Plantings included Henrys Garnet Virginia Willow, Viburnum Summer Snowflake, Hameln Grass, Zagreb Coreopsis, and Walker's Low Catmint. Members reviewed the design and placement of the plants and approved it overall. However, maintenance would surely be a problem as watering if spring planted would be 2X/week for the first two months and 1X/week until the end of November. Watering if fall planted would be 1X/ week until the end of November. There would also be annual maintenance for the shrubs and perennials. The members decided that this planting design would not be feasible because of the watering and maintenance issues.

Members reviewed the updated Conservation Easement and Deed Restricted Lands Map and will be sent an electronic version. Dave Clapp suggested contacting Banisch for an acreage breakdown by legend.

Mayor Rich and Cathy met with the NJDEP earlier today to discuss our concerns for the PennEast pipeline. This meeting was at the DEP's request. Since 65+% of the route has been denied survey access in New Jersey, the DEP will be unable to issue the permits necessary. They were helpful and wish to do the best for the environment. Concerns were raised as to erosion, contamination, blasting – diabase fractures – and possible wells drying up,

among other concerns. Cathy had prepared a synopsis/report with West Amwell's concerns and presented it to both DEP persons at the meeting and will send copies to the EC members.

Members discussed information from Kingwood's Environmental Commission banning fracking in the township. Members felt that it would not be necessary to pursue doing an ordinance like this in West Amwell.

The Soil Removal Ordinance and the Woodlands Ordinance mitigation were carried till the next meeting.

No members of the public were present for comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski.