

Minutes for the Environmental Commission April 14, 2016

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

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

Members excused: Clapp.

Members absent: Piel.

Approval of minutes – the minutes from March 10, 2016 were approved, with corrections.

No members of the public were present for comment.

Cathy provided a copy of a letter from the DEP regarding the amendment and modification to the scope of work for the 319h grant.

We are still waiting for the final design for the municipal property from Princeton Hydro.

Steve and Rebecca from Princeton Hydro walked the Kiriluk property on 3/38. Steve reported that the Creek on the Kiriluk property can be restored, but will take a lot of effort and funding. He wishes to begin with and complete the municipal property plan, then determine what funding is left for Kiriluk. He did mention seeking additional funding, but these usually require partial funding by the recipient. Mr. Kiriluk has stated that he does not wish to fund any of these projects.

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. This was presented to the Township Committee on 3/16. The Committee agreed with the EC that the design was not feasible due to water constraints and added maintenance. Another design from Sweet Valley Farms was presented to the Committee on 4/2. This consisted of dogwoods planted the entire length with a boulder and plantings at either end. The Committee liked this design and asked that the plantings be done in the spring. We were just recently informed, however, that since the total cost is over the \$2625 quote threshold, that it must go out to bid. We wondered why we weren't informed of this sooner. The members discussed this and questioned the need for bidding in lieu of the fact that the funding for this project was from the JCP&L mitigation and not funded by taxpayers money. We will ask the Township Committee to decide at their 4/20 meeting.

Cathy reported that she was contacted that PennEast survey crews were illegally trespassing on properties along Alexauken Creek Road. WATPD responded to a call from Victor Brown and filed a report. Other residents had similar concerns, but did not report anything to the Township.

It was also noted that there are blue survey ribbons on the Titus property along both sides of the Creek and tributaries. Cathy and her husband inspected these on 4/10 and confirmed. Members discussed this and how to find out who is responsible. Also discussed was the devastation that PSE&G had created along the Creek. The Township had passed a resolution denying PennEast from surveying in the township road ROW. Shirley Turner responded to this resolution in a very positive manner.

Members discussed the planned solar installation on the municipal property which would provide electricity to SHRHS and the municipal property.

Members discussed the recently passed Township Committee resolution for the Memorandum of Understanding for the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic designation.

Rob Piel was to present an interpretation of the changes to the Tier B Stormwater regulations, but he was not present at the meeting. Members will discuss at our next meeting.

The need to modify our stormwater education insert for inclusion with the tax bill was discussed. Cathy and Joan will do it soon.

Margaret Logreira, Raritan Headwaters Association will attend our meeting in June. She will discuss well water testing and hopefully provide us with possible problem areas in the township. She will also be introducing our new Watershed Ambassador.

Cathy reported a bald eagle sighting to the DEP and encouraged anyone who has sightings of endangered species to file a report.

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 8:10 pm.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Urbanski.