

Union Township Environmental Commission Meeting 2/8/2011

Members Present: Bill Harclerode, Alan Ford, Don Church, Steve Hurford, Chuck LaTournous, Chuck Neary, Sandy Stiger

Bill Harclerode called meeting to order and mentioned notice was published in Democrat and Express Times.

Motion to approve meeting minutes of December was approved Motion carried Alan abstained.

Minutes to approved January minutes was carried.

Old Business:

- Education forum on global warming will be postponed but Don and Bill will be involved possibly involving the Sierra Club
- HC Planning Board and design awards- no further news
- Curbside leaf removal taken off agenda
- Renewable energy applications, Sandy will take the lead need to pass comments on to Alan. Planning Board meeting/public hearing on Thursday 2/20. Noise issue with the wind turbines is a concern. Township engineer will review application for wind turbine and defer to an expert if necessary
- Alan concerned with provision on replacing/disposal of solar equipment that is abandoned

Goals for UTEC:

- Well testing program minimal people participated Decided to continue the program
- Anti Idling program - will continue
- Municipally owned open space property inspections will continue.
- Environmental easements; Michelle to apply for Grant. Committee may inspect periodically the sites involved. Grant would possibly cover the costs of hiring an intern to do the research on the easements. UTEC would monitor the activities to support the Township Committee. Alan mentioned that the Planning Board is still in the identification process as far as the grant is involved. Property owners also need to be educated.
- Public trails on Finn Rd and Milligan farm- grant was received and that will be goal to install public trails
- Riparian planning on Sydney Brook- in progress
- Spring cleanup on SBWA- waiting to hear date
- Hear 1-2 public education events on global warming possiblySteve wanted more local issues, say recycling possibly alternative energy for Union Twsp. Invasive species control mentioned by Sandy...do not plant liststinkbugs....pesticides, fertilizer
- Improve public communications on environmental issues and improve our website and make it more accessible...Chuck involved with Pat Z.

- Sustainable NJ continue efforts and possibly improve our status
- Road noise
- Sustainable process for reviewing applications..need a team leader to address ..reviews should be done when first submitted not when deemed complete
- Steve wants Highland's Council to reimburse homeowners that lost value on their property. Discussion whether that was part of UTEC's responsibility.

New Business: none

Correspondence:

- Updated application for Fallone construction on Perryville Rd
- Stewardship committee only thing left is Hoffman Barns on the north end. Most work is complete so committee will be disbanded
- Diesel idling is still pending- UTEC Town Committee passed a resolution
- Chuck Neary and Sandy will join John on the trails committee.

Committee Reports:

Planning Board report (Alan):

Pattensburg Quarry: the Union portion is done, there is an application on the Bethlehem side
Scheduled to hear conversion of the Shell station for convenience store

Transportation/Road Noise: (Bill)

- Road noise letter sent to Eric Peterson on unlawful road noise due to engine braking no response yet

Communications (Chuck La T.)

- Spring newsletter will be a printed version plus an electronic version. Articles are welcome by Chuck La T.....add recycling list and township directory to newsletter. Trails mentioned also....pictures of the Douglas barns...spotlight on Union twp citizen. Possibly employ a Facebook page for UTEC. Motion by Steve for putting page on FB.....Seconded and only factual information should be posted on the page.

Sidney Brook (Bill, Chuck N.)

- Sidney Brook Project Bill sent out letters to adjacent land owners
- Volunteers for planting on first or second in April possibly later date due to weather conditions being too wet in April. Possibly 2 separate days one for removal and one for planting

Highlands Committee (Alan, Bill)
no further information

Sustainable Jersey (Chuick La T.)

- Sustainable NJ Chuck wants to regroup with committee and possibly work with schools on education projects
- Environmental easement database will be removed temporarily from future agendas

No hearings from the citizens.

Motion to closeand seconded. Meeting Closed at 8:36