

DRAFT

Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes for December 8, 2009 @ 7:00 PM

Our notice as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Express-Times satisfies the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act. This notice is also posted on the Township website, and a copy is filed with the Municipal Clerk.

I. **Roll call:** Present: Michele McBride, Chuck La Tournous, Josh Boyle, and Chuck Neary were present. John Wingler arrived at 7:23 P.M. and Steve Hurford arrived at 7:45 P.M. Sandy Stiger and Kathleen Corcoran were not present. Bill Harclerode sent notice that he would not be unable to attend.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes from the December 2009 meeting were moved, and approved by Joshua Boyle after reviewing during the first few moments of the meeting.

III. Old Business:

1. Trails perimeter trail at Finn Road Park (Michele): We can begin staking the Finn Road trail after Township Atty. Peter Jost completes a Green Acres requirement to determine, in writing, whether the new trail is considered a change of use for the park. NJDEP requires official notification only if the township attorney determines this trail to be a new use of the park per Green Acres Requirements section 7:36-25.6 (Change in Purpose or Use for Funded or Unfunded Parkland). Letter should be completed by the next meeting, January 7, 2010.
2. Environmental easement database (John, Chuck N.): Chuck stated that they did not meet. Michele McBride stated she would open the UTEC office in order to review the maps and other pertinent data. Grace Kocher from the township Planning Board should be contacted in regards to the files.
3. Stormwater Management – The new stormwater bulletin board is up next to the clerks' office. It was suggested that some stormwater management solutions be added to the website. Michele brought a brief draft of the stormwater web page to the meeting for review. Chuck LaTournous asked to add additional information to the web page. The site should also have a link to Cleanwater.org for more information on stormwater management. Chuck Neary is going to investigate more information on rain gardens for addition to the website or meeting presentation.
4. NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act: Bill discussed this with Mayor Dziubek, she discussed with the Committee. The Committee decided

that we do not need a Shade Tree Committee since most of the trees within the township are privately owned.

5. UTEC Seminar proposal – invasive species and native plantings (Chuck N.): Michelle McBride suggested exploring safe/environmentally friendly ways to dispose of invasive species. Also suggested information/pictures of what type of species one may come across within our area. Chuck La Tournous suggested adding this type of information to the website. A suggestion was made in regards to getting a speaker on invasive species and a native species substitute.

IV. Correspondence

1. A land use code new ordinance letter in regards to increased fees.
2. A DEP approved application for payment for the Sydney Brook study.
3. A letter from Ntec on federal and state incentives for solar power.
4. Anjec, 2010 planning grants for things such as open spaces, and Brownfields. The grants are available as long as the township matches 50%.
5. Anjec email in regards to the Rutgers Environmental Steward 2010 class. Michelle McBride signed up for the class

V. New Business:

1. Leaf Management: Michele sent out information to the commission about Princeton's Environmental Commission leaf management. They have given UTEC permission to use the information as long as they are given credit. Michelle will re-write and make it applicable to Union Twp to approve at the next UTEC meeting. It should be added to the website once being approved. Many people have been calling the township in regards to leaf management.
2. 2010 well testing. Josh Boyle and John Wingler will schedule the township well testing. The well testing will be completed sometime in the spring. Testing will be promoted in the newsletter, signs outside of businesses and more information is going to be gathered in regards to promoting within the schools.

VI. Chair's Report

1. Stakeholders meeting will take place in January on Sidney Brook Study results with Dr. Souza at the request of the DEP. The groundwater contamination at the dentist's office was not in the final report, but he is aware and has the water tested yearly.

VII. Reports of Subcommittees

1. Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): No new news. John Wingler mentioned not being able to get into the building to review maps. Borrowing a key was suggested.
2. Property Stewardship (Michele McBride)

- I. Hoffman Park- There was another break in. John Wingler received a quote from ADT for a wireless security system. There are a few options that need to be further discussed. There is an option of having the system installed and monitored for a monthly charge for a 3 year commitment. The other option is for ADT for install the system with no monitoring. The cost of the first option is about \$4,800 a year and the second is a total cost of \$3,300. The second option is less money, but the Commission expressed more interest in ADT monitoring the system. Both John Wingler and Steve Hurford were going to speak to other vendors they knew in order to see what service and cost can be provided. There is an RFP for the northern barns, Michelle McBride will send out to UTEC for review and to discuss at the next meeting. A company Restoration Technologies has an interest in the barns. They will provide the township with a quote. There is not much reclamation use for the barn material. If keep as they are, they need to be used for some type of recreational use and not storage.
- II. Douglas – The “blitz cleanup” was a success. Township Committee has approved a resolution authorizing the sale of the Douglass Farm. The auction is scheduled for December 10.
- III. Milligan Farms- Farm Trail Grant application complete. Mailed on December 10, 2009.

3. Planning Board Report - No report. Kathleen Corcoran not present

4. Transportation (Bill Harclerode)

- I. Road Noise. No new news on the road noise project. Bill Harclerode not present

5. Communication / Education (Michelle Mc Bride, Chuck La Tournous)

- a. Newsletter: Sandy completed an article on aquatic invasive plants for the newsletter and forwarded to Michele. Michele will work on the newsletter with a goal to publish in the first quarter, 2010.
- b. Website – Michele will work with Chuck L this month to add a page to the UTEC website for stormwater education.

6. Sidney Brook Project 319h Grant (Chuck Neary, Bill Harclerode)

- I. Princeton Hydro (Dr. Sousa) will schedule the next stakeholder meeting to review Watershed Characterization Report and discuss Watershed Protection Plan. After that, it will be presented to the public at a UTEC meeting. Bill will follow-up with Princeton Hydro on this. We are actually ahead of schedule; not due for finalization before May 2010. Will try to hold prior to the end of the year, dependent upon Princeton Hydro's schedule.

7. UTC Highlands Committee (Kathy Corcoran, Bill Harclerode)

- Township intends to opt in to the Highlands Planning area. Highlands sub-committee is currently modifying Modules of the Highlands Master Plan to fit into the Township planning documents and a meeting is

concurrently in process to review and update the township's conformance to the Highlands Regional Master Plan Modules 3, 6 and 7. The current opt-in date is December 2009. No further update since both Kathy Corcoran and Bill Harclerode were not present.

8. Sustainable NJ Certification (C. La Tournous)

- Chuck obtained a copy of our resolution from the township committee and submitted it along with our registration to Sustainable NJ. It was accepted, and we are now listed as an active participating community on the Sustainable NJ website. Our next step will be to identify action items already completed and provide documentation. According to the website, only one community has obtained conformance so far, Woodbridge Township. They have 30 people on their committee and a \$30,000 budget. The Green Team sub committee is still waiting to meet.

Hearing of Citizens

None

Adjournment

It was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting, and UTEC members adjourned to the Highlands Committee Meeting upstairs.

Meeting minutes by: Joshua Boyle