

UNION TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING 6/9/09

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM. Present were Bill Harclerode, Michele McBride, John Wingler, Chuck Neary, Josh Boyle, Steve Hurford, and Sandy Stiger.

Michele McBride made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 2009 meeting, John Wingler seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Josh Boyle was previously sworn in as a new alternate to the Environmental Commission.

The letter was not yet sent (Steve Hurford) to the Highlands Coalition with regard to their position on reimbursing property owners residing in the Highlands area . The issue was tabled to the next meeting.

Sustainable NJ: The Municipal Certification Program requires 100 points to be certified as a green community. As part of this, the township must undertake four of the following mandatory actions (which are worth 10 points each):

- establish a green team
- an energy audit
- municipal carbon footprint
- sustainable land use pledge (priority)
- water conservation ordinance (priority)
- diversity on boards

More information is available at www.sustainablenj.com. No decision was made regarding whether to apply. Michelle McBride asked about the benefits for getting certified. Bill Harclerode spoke about getting grant money, for example for energy audits. The Commission e-mailed them but we have not heard back. Solar panel projects are also a way to get points. ANJEC holds free meetings to learn how to fill out the necessary forms.

Presentation: Dr. Stephen Souza from Princeton Hydro gave an excellent presentation on pond management that was well attended by the public. A question and answer segment followed.

Old Business:

Recycling Grant Funds –

Michelle McBride discussed how to use the \$9,000.00 rebate the Township received back from the State last year. It could be used toward recycling activities. According to Deputy Mayor Matt Severino, last years rebate was used on stairs, recycling bins, and tools. An idea for this year would be to give away compost bins (for leaves). Michelle McBride had two types of bins for consideration. One is a 3' X 3' round bin @ \$29.99

(includes shipping), or 14 c.f. molded recycled plastic bin @ \$90.00. Josh Boyle suggested telling residents what bins are specifically for. Michelle McBride suggested doing a public educational element.

Another possibility is to sponsor an electronics recycling day for Union Township residents, since the county program line was TOO LONG. Hunterdon County is the recycling coordinator for all townships. The county would like the recycling rebate money as reimbursement for their work..

Bill Harclerode discussed what could be done with grass clippings. High Bridge, for example, chips and piles branches, and organic debris. A suggestion came from Frank Mazza for chipping days once or twice a year. This would be done by the township road department. Josh Boyle spoke with someone at Waste Management (e-recycling) in regard to where, storage, costs (trailer or one-day event). Cost is \$.25/lb. Bill Harclerode suggested getting a dumpster and when full that would give us a cost estimate.

Trails –

Chuck La Tournous contacted the Recreation Committee regarding a perimeter trail at Finn Park and maybe at Millbrook Park on Strotz Road.

Correspondence:

Pattensburg Quarry – Environmental Commission was copied on the engineers report. The Township Council spoke on this as well. Chuck Neary expressed an interest in walking the quarry.

Highlands Application/Wetlands Notices – we are receiving many of these.

Letters from residents wishing to be placed on the Environmental Commission e-mail list- forwarded to Communications Subcommittee.

Chairman Report:

Cathy Corcoran is unable to continue doing the minutes for the meeting. Elaine Neary has volunteered to replace her. The Commission thanked Elaine for volunteering!

Pilot Truck Stop – The Stormwater Management Plan is available to read. Plan assures they are doing what they agreed to do. Stephen Souza noted that the Applicant has to submit monitoring reports to the engineer. These reports need to be submitted to the Township as stated by the Township Ordinance. By State law systems need to be inspected 4 times a year and after more than a 1” of rainfall.

Committee Reports

Open-Space:

Scheuing Property Inspection Update – Three weeks ago Sandy Stiger met with Dick McMannis. He will speak to the township lawyer.

Property Stewardship:

Douglas Farm – Appraisal done in June. Auction to take place in September

Hoffman property – RFP has been submitted to County Parks Chair John Tronis and forwarded to attorney. Should hear back in September from the County.

Planning Board Report

Wachovia Bank, Walmart Plaza set to be heard at upcoming Planning Board meeting.

-Republic Services on-site diesel fueling approved.

-St. Catherine's Church – public hearing requesting increase in parking spaces and new exit.

-Pilot Truck Stop – Redesign of truck circulation set for June 11th Planning Board meeting.

-Pattensburg Quarry – Union Township approved fill activity.

Communications:

The current Environmental Newsletter is out.

E-mail contact list for interested residents is being prepared.

Sydney Brook Project:

Quarterly Report is done.

Commission will ask Christine Altomari from Princeton Hydro to come out in September to present information to the public in Final Report.

Highlands –

The finalized Land Use Map has been posted.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Wingler and seconded by Michelle McBride.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Neary