

Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes for February 9, 2010 @ 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, Bill Harclerode, Steve Hurford, John Wingler, and Joshua Boyle were present. Sandy Stiger, Chuck La Tournous, Chuck Neary and Kathleen Corcoran were not present.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes from the January 2010 meeting were moved, and approved by Michele McBride and seconded by Joshua Boyle after reviewing during the first few minutes 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). Michele has written a letter to Peter Jost detailing the project and recommending that the trail is not a new use. Work to take place in the spring.
2. Stormwater Management – The new stormwater bulletin board is up next to the clerks' office. Chuck La Tournous has added stormwater management solutions to the website. The site also now contains a link to Cleanwater.org for more information on stormwater management. All items on the checklist finished; project complete.
3. UTEC Seminar proposal – invasive species and native plantings (Chuck N.): Michele 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. Chuck Neary is working on getting a speaker on invasive species for one of our spring meetings.
4. Leaf Management (Michele): Michele sent out information to the commission about Princeton's Environmental Commission leaf management pamphlet. They have given UTEC permission to use the information as long as they are given credit. Michele re-wrote the document modifying it to apply to Union

Township. The document has been sent to Chuck La Tournous to put on the website and will also be in our next newsletter.

5. Franklin Truck Depot: Beth Barry, Executive Director, Musconetcong Watershed Association gave a presentation on the Impact of the proposed Franklin Truck Depot on the Musconetcong Watershed in Hunterdon and Warren Counties.

IV. Correspondence

1. No new correspondence brought to UTEC.

V. New Business:

1. No New Business

VI. Chair's Report

1. No Chair's Report

VII. Reports of Subcommittees

1. Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): No new news, neither Sandy nor Chuck were present.
2. Property Stewardship (Michele McBride)
 - I. Hoffman Park- 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. 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 inspected the barns. They have provided the township with a quote in regards to the demolition of the barns. All told, to remove the three structures we don't need, along with the shed structures on Barn #1; estimated costs for the demolition are about \$20,000. There is not much reclamation use for the barn material. If kept as they are, they need to be used for some type of recreational use and not storage.
 - II. Douglas – Sale closed with Dr. Furlong on 1-26-10. Project complete.
 - III. Milligan Farms- The plan is to open the farmhouse in March and complete as assessment of clean up needed to get the property in shape for a potential auction. Frank Castellano has volunteered to help with the initial assessment and follow up work at the Milligan farmhouse. Michele is going to try to schedule him to attend one of our next meetings. There has been significant discussion about the current zoning of the tract and whether a change in the zone would be useful. After the initial assessment is complete, Earle Stevens from the Max

Spann Co. will be brought in for a tour and to discuss the best way to market the property. Leasing options for winter hunting through a bid process, similar to other Hunterdon Townships, are also under discussion. This would help control the deer overpopulation and bring in revenue. The farm could potentially bring in \$3-7,000 a year. More will be discussed at one of the next UTEC meetings. Michele will look into potential Certified Environmental Stewardship projects at the farm once she completes the Stewardship course.

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.

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

a. Newsletter: Michele is working hard on the newsletter and hopes to have it completed soon.

b. Website – Stormwater education information was added to the website.

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

I. Princeton Hydro (Dr. Sousa) Meeting was held. There are some challenges with the stream, but overall it is in good condition. A public meeting will be held once the final report is issued. Potential grants and remediation methods will be determined then. We are actually ahead of schedule; not due for finalization before May 2010.

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

I. The Township discussed the revised COAH requirements and needs to make sure that we are able to satisfy them.

8. Sustainable NJ Certification (C. La Tournous)

I. 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.

9. Conservation Easement Database (John, Chuck N.)

I. Chuck and John have met and discussed a plan of action.

10. Well Testing:

Sandy proposed a date of April 14, 2010. UTEC will discuss in the March meeting the best way to market the well testing. We will also discuss plans such as a stream clean-up for Earth Day.

Hearing of Citizens

None

Adjournment

It was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting minutes by: Joshua Boyle