

Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes for March 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, Sandy Stiger, Chuck La Tournous, Chuck Neary, Kathleen Corcoran and Joshua Boyle were present.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes from the February 2010 meeting were moved by Sandy Stiger, , seconded and approved.

III. Old Business:

1. Trails - perimeter trail at Finn Road Park (Michele): Letter by Peter Jost has been completed. A walkthrough of the trail will take place on March 20th 2010 by members of UTEC, Stewardship and Rec Committee.
2. Stormwater Management –Completed, to be removed from the April 13th 2010 agenda.
3. UTEC Seminar – Invasive species and native plantings (Chuck N.): Seminar scheduled for the April 13th UTEC meeting at 7:30 P.M. Melissa Almendinger from Central Jersey Invasive strike team, Upper Raritan Watershed Association will be the speaker. Advertising for the seminar will be posted on the UTEC website, send out emails, put in the Democrat and sent out through the schools electronic backpack.
4. Franklin Truck Depot – The application was withdrawn. Many different groups and individuals assisted in this effort, including UTEC and the Township Committee.
5. Well Water Testing – Scheduled for April 14th. The kits can be picked up on March 29th and need to be dropped off with Ella in borough hall. The testing will be advertised in the Democrat.
6. Stream Cleanup Sat. April 24 9-12 (SBWA) – Bill H. will get more information on the cleanup in regards to where the groups will be meeting. The local Boy Scout Troops are aware and would like to participate.

IV. Correspondence

1. No new correspondence brought to UTEC.

V. New Business:

1. No New Business

VI. Chair's Report

1. Bill spoke with the recycling coordinator. The town has been receiving calls about the recycling program, and where to dispose of various recycling items. Since all of the material is going into the dumpster, some people do not realize all the items are being recycled. Union Township has a single stream recycling program where cans, plastic, glass, paper and cardboard all go into the same container. The newsletter is going to have a lot of recycling information in it. The existing recycling information that had been in past newsletters will be posted on the UTEC website by Chuck. A company Free Cycle was mentioned, they take items such as large electronics. They are listed in the County website, which is referenced in the upcoming recycling information article
2. Review of 2010 UTEC Goals: we are on schedule to complete the following:
 - I. Property Stewardship – work with Town Committee and Freeholders to reach a decision on either preserving or demonstrating unoccupied buildings at Hoffman Park and Milligan Farms by December 1
 - II. Sustainable NJ – meet the certification goals by December 31, 2010. Involve other members of the community in this process.
 - III. Communication – issue at least two public newsletters this year. Update the UTEC website to include more environmental information. Hold at least one public interest seminar this year.
 - IV. Increase public awareness of invasive species, stream water quality protection issues and the Sidney Brook Water Protection Plan, through public education events.
 - V. Environmental easements – establish a priority for which easements to track first, and then begin entering data into the database.
 - VI. Open space monitoring – monitor at least and additional 6-8 properties this year and document for future comparative purposes.
 - VII. Road noise – restart regional efforts to reduce un-muffled truck engine breaking noise from Route 78 with the goal of either increasing enforcement or getting at least one bill passed by the NJ Senate or Assembly.
 - VIII. Public access trails – establish a perimeter trail on at least one open space property this year.
 - IX. Highlands – support Town Committee efforts and strategies to bring local master plans and development regulations into conformance with the "goals, requirements and provisions of the regional master plan.
 - X. Seek out and apply for at least two grant programs in 2010. Select grants that bring in value to Union Township residents at a minimal to no additional cost.
 - XI. Hold an annual well test day utilizing the help of the SBWA.

VII. Reports of Subcommittees

1. Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): No new news ,due to bad weather in late February – early March.
2. Property Stewardship (Michele McBride)
 - I. Hoffman Park- John Wingler received a quote from Fisher Electric, for a security alarm system at the Hoffman House. The system is going to cost \$4300.00 including installation. The less expensive wireless system can't be used since the house is not heated. It was decided that a lower cost system of simulated outdoor surveillance cameras and signage will be purchased. RFP's for the house and North barns have been completed. Michele submitted a second email to the county on 2-23 at the request of the Township Committee. A reply was received and forwarded to the Stewardship group. Peter Jost, Michele, and a risk manager will meet and go over the final document.
 - II. Milligan Farms- The resolution was completed supporting the Trail Grant Application on 2-17. Stewardship group will meet at Milligan Farmhouse at 9am on Saturday, March 20 to open the house and assess condition of the house, barn, and property. After assessment is completed, it will then be determined what work needs to be done in order to get the property in condition for action. One of the leasing options is for winter hunting through a bid process, similar to other Hunterdon Townships. After more research was completed by Steve Hurford, it was concluded that the revenue generated would be minimal because the main wooded area of the property is the EIT easement. The NJWSA would prefer this remain untouched.
3. Planning Board Report – The Shell gas station is looking to expand and add a convenient store.
4. Transportation (Bill Harclerode)
 - I. Road Noise. Started meetings again. Met with Skylands Preservation.
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 – No new news
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. Woodbridge has 30 people on their committee and a \$30,000 budget. The Green Team sub committee met and divided up tasks.

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

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

Hearing of Citizens

None

Adjournment

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

Meeting minutes by: Joshua Boyle