

Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes for April 13, 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, Steve Hurford, John Wingler, Sandy Stiger, Chuck La Tournous, Chuck Neary, Kathleen Corcoran and Joshua Boyle were present. Bill Harclerode was not present.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes from the March 2010 meeting were moved, and approved by Kathleen Corcoran and seconded by Chuck Neary.

III. Old Business:

1. Trails perimeter trail at Finn Road Park (Michele): Overall the trails are in good condition considering the winter. A walkthrough of the trail took place on March 20th 2010 by members of UTEC, Stewardship, and Rec. Committee. Since that date, the trail has been staked and measured by the Kirkpatrick family and the Road Department has removed several downed trees and cleared brush. Many thanks to Roads and Brian for their excellent efforts. UTEC will follow up on how to best deal with posting a map of and marking the trail for patrons.
5. Well Water Testing – Scheduled for April 14th between 7-10am. The kits were to be picked up on March 29th and need to be dropped off in borough hall. The testing was advertised in the Democrat and HC News.
6. Stream Cleanup Sat. April 24 9-11 (SBWA) – The South Branch Water Association will be holding a clean up April 24, 2010. The Association will be meeting in the ranger parking lot at 9 A.M. Local scout troops and township representatives will also be participating in this initiative. They will be meeting in the Dog Training area off Van Sickles Rd.

IV. Correspondence:

1. No new correspondence brought to UTEC.

V. Presentation:

Melissa Almendinger, Invasive Species Coordinator for the Upper Raritan Watershed Association presented an invasive species seminar. Ms. Almendinger presented her organization and their mission to educate the public on invasive species. She handed out pamphlets on the common and latin names

of invasive species. Throughout her presentation she gave a brief description of different local invasive species as well as some alternative native plantings. Michele is going to investigate how to become a volunteer.

VI. Chair's Report

1. There have been some challenges with the recording equipment. Please make sure to be especially cognizant of this when setting up recordings.

VII. Reports of Subcommittees

1. Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): Walked through the water supply property off Anderson Road. The high tension tower area was recently cleared, so access to the property was easier. The whole property is about 75 acres. No major issues noted.
2. Property Stewardship (Michele McBride)
 - I. Hoffman Park- Michele met with Peter Jost to make final revisions to the two RFPs. He suggested modifications to the document based on recommendations from risk management and the County. Michele will review the revisions with the Township Committee and intends to get everything published by the beginning of May
 - II. Milligan Farms- Met on March 20th to assess the property and dwellings. Now that the initial assessment has been completed, there is a better understanding of that will need to be completed in order to get the property in condition for auction. Some of the work will be able to be completed by volunteers and other work needs to be completed by professionals.
3. Planning Board Report – Last meeting they adopted Farmland Preservation element to the master plan. An organization called the Perryville group has proposed a 2 mega watt solar farm along Frontage Road. The farm is supposed to be in the open space near the pipeline. The group states that the farm should not be able to be seen from route 78 or from the road.
4. Transportation (Bill Harclerode)
 - I. Road Noise. The Road Noise Group has scheduled meetings this month with Senator Doherty and Assemblyman Peterson to discuss enforcement and increased fines for trucks with illegal mufflers.
5. Communication / Education (Michelle Mc Bride, Chuck La Tournous)
 - I. The news letters have been completed and sent out this week. Many items have been added to the website.
6. Sidney Brook Project 319h Grant (Chuck Neary, Bill Harclerode)
 - I. Although the project is still on schedule, at DEP's request we submitted no-cost time extension.
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. Our next step will be to identify action items already completed and provide documentation. The Green Team sub committee met and divided up tasks. Chuck has been asked to present information on the Sustainable Certification to the Flemington Environmental Commission.

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

- I. No new news.

Hearing of Citizens

None

Adjournment

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

Meeting minutes by: Joshua Boyle