

UNION TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2011

Our notice as published in the HC Democrat and the Courier News 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.

Opened Meeting 7:05 PM.

Roll call: Present: Don Church, Bill Harclerode, Alan Ford, John Wingler, Chuck LaTournous, Sandy Stiger, Stephen Hurford.

Approval of minutes; Minutes from December meeting were not available for review. Bill will follow up with Josh. Don will take meeting minutes for this meeting.

Old Business:

- Trail at Finn Road
 - John prepared a drawing of sign to be submitted for approval- 6" x 9" for trail marking. John wants to get this to Michelle so Greg can make the signs up during his off season- green background with white lettering possible. John submitted drawing but will rework based on comments received at this meeting.
 - Can make signs at the garage after approval ... can have signs on either side of post suggested by Alan...John mentioned that Finn park is set up this way.
 - Steve would like to see the signs as small as possible so they are unobtrusive as possible
 - Bill noted that signs need to be visible and should not require maintenance to be seen i.e. lawn mowing etc.

Education forum on global warming: Bill and Don are working on this. Possible joint effort with Sierra Club for Earth Day in April.

- Hunterdon County Planning and Design Awards: Douglass Farm project was submitted with Dr. Furlong as project partner. UT Green Team will also be nominated for the Sustainable Jersey certification project.
- Curbside leaf removal; this item will be removed from agenda, revisit in spring
- Fall UTEC newsletter: every one was very happy with the newsletter, received good feedback from citizens and UTC.
- Tabled motion to recommend that the Planning Board consider an ordinance to require only native plantings for new applications: There was no second to this motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bill has been reappointed as Chair by Mayor Bischoff
- Chuck La Tournous is appointed as Co-Chair by Bill.
- Michelle McBride is the new liaison to the Township Committee.
- Motion: 2011 Meeting dates to be the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM except no meeting in August. Moved, seconded, and approved. Dates need to be communicated in a public notice.

Correspondence

- Pattenburg Quarry: the Bethlehem Twp Planning Board is currently reviewing the application for quarry reclamation (filling it in). BTEC is concerned about potential impact to streams and has written to DEP. Trucks will need to pass through Union Township for this project. UTEC has communicated this to UTC and Planning Board. Alan will look into the UT's current agreement with Pattenburg Quarry, including status of the planned reclamation in UT, and report back at next meeting.
- Bill received a letter from Readington Twsp opposing the proposed logging project on county property. This project was abandoned by the Freeholders.
- Received letter from DEP for renewing permit for Hunterdon Co-Gen at Edna Mahan.
- Pilot Travel Center has presented their anti-idling plan. They will put up signs but not actively enforce. Planning board is working with Pilot on this.
- Received updated application for Shell station convenience store at exit 12. New septic system will require permit due to wetlands area. DEP has submitted wetlands delineation. Shell needs to add the delineated wetlands area on their drawing.
- We discussed the process for how and when UTEC interacts with the Planning Board to express concerns.
- Bill sent thank-you letters to Bagelsmith, Perryville Liquors and Busy Bee who have voluntarily participated in our anti-idling program by posting new "No Idling" signs.
- DEP notified Bill about a proposed bill that would permanently extend the diesel idling exemption. We will follow up and document our opposition to this if the bill is submitted.
- UTEC names and contact information was distributed to UTEC members.

Chairs report

- Discussed setting goals for this year. No goals established yet. Will follow up at next meeting.
- Discuss grants for environmental easement monitoring: Michelle will continue with this project.

Sub committees

- Open Space: Sandy –and Bill will review the current list of open space properties that need to be monitored by UTEC.
- Property stewardship
 - Michelle won't be on Stewardship committee since she is now on Township Committee, we will either need a new chair or can let it lapse as many items are already planned for completion.
- Planning board report (Alan)
 - open permit shell station at exit 12.
 - Pilot wants expand and increase water use. Pilot has been reporting their usage per day (3600 gpd threshold) so they shutdown their showers.
 - Ordinance for renewable energy projects. Solar farms are not considered impervious coverage. Sandy expressed an interest in ordinances. Bill will forward to UTEC the ordinance that is being considered by the Planning Board.
 - Current construction at Pilot: Pilot is replacing their septic system.
- Road noise – Bill sent letter to Assemblyman Eric Peterson to request follow-up information on the State Police's plans to purchase noise meters and enforce applicable laws.
- Communication/Education (Chuck La Tournous): Spring newsletter to be headed up by Chuck

- Sidney brook project: application for wetlands permit for riparian planting at Milligan Farms property is being prepared by Skip Jonas and NJWSA.
- Highlands Committee: no meetings have been held.
- Sustainable Jersey committee: no meetings have been held.
- No citizens committee members present at meeting

Motion to close meeting: moved, seconded and approved at 8:30.