

UTEC Meeting Minutes - June 14, 2011

Our notice as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Express Times satisfies the requirements of the open public meeting act. It is also posted on the Township web site and copy is filed with the Municipal Clerk

Roll Call: Don Church, Bill Harclerode, Steve Hurford, and Sandy Stiger present.

Michelle McBride in attendance in the audience

Old Business

Transco Pipeline will have equipment staging area in Union Township. Purpose is to transport shale gas from PA. Transco wants to put a 3rd line in which may impact the Township. Bill H requested more information from Transco and suggested that if we have comments now is the time to do it. Construction will be within their existing easement. The new pipeline will be located 25' from the existing 2 pipelines, which will be within the existing easement.

Union Township well testing will be on Wednesday 6/15. Only a few kits have been sold so far sold this year.

Public education event

Sandy spoke to Wayne Krantz regarding stink bugs who advised that she needs to speak to Dr George Hamilton with Rutgers

ANJEC grant for environmental easement - Michelle McBride had news that grant was approved but was the budget was cut down. Michelle handed out a copy of grant to all UTEC members. Michelle had asked for \$3200 in the request but ANJEC will contribute \$2500 for the project. Need to do deed search for approx 200 deeds, which would be done during the day and then scanned at the Union Township Building. Have to develop a press release per ANJEC requirements. ANJEC will not fund the newsletter so we will have to do this on our own. Township Attorney will review letters that go out. Series of 3 communications, first with the tax mailing in July, then mailings to home owners which will have their property and easement highlighted. (Farm assessments are being looked at as part of a new law which would increase the dollar value from \$500 to \$10k which would prevent a lot of people from claiming the exemption.) Mailings will be at a cost of \$92 for black and white tri-folded for the Commission. UTEC members may be needed to come in and stuff the flyer into the tax statements. All UTEC members reviewed the proposed mailing by Michelle and it was approved by the Township committee. Mailing will have the property owners' property highlighted and the easement shown. Motion to support approval of ANJEC grant by Town Committee - moved, seconded and approved.

Bill H suggested that voice mail messages for UTEC be able to be retrieved remotely instead of having to come to Municipal Bldg.

New Business

Bill is stepping down as Chair (but will remain as citizen member of UTEC). Chuck La Tournous will be new Chair. No meeting scheduled in August. Since Chuck was not able to attend this meeting and has not yet appointed a co-chair, Bill was asked to lead this meeting.

Correspondence

Permit was finally obtained from DEP for Milligan Farms riparian planting which is now scheduled for Friday, 6/18 and it may go into Saturday. Volunteers are needed.

Unity Spiritual Center received a Notice of Deficiency from NJDEP for failure to do remediation on Bellwood Dr. The nature of the required remediation is unknown.

Sub committees

Open Space – nothing to report

Trails Committee (Don)

Bob Clerico did an estimate for the small parking area for Milligan farms trails. Estimate was high but will be reviewed at the Township meeting on Wednesday night. The exact area to be determined. Michelle has a \$3500 grant for the parking area.

Finn Road Park had a trail map designed by Michelle and the markers are in place now. Michelle designed a trail map and passed out to all UTEC members. Need to check to make sure that the box containing the trail maps are there. The brochure will be located by the park bulletin board.

Planning Board – no report.

Road noise: Letters are going out to all NJ municipalities to ask them to support increased fines for unmuffled engine braking and increased enforcement. Cost of mailing will be \$225 split between the 3 townships (Union, Clinton and Bethlehem), which is only \$75 per township.

Communication/Education – no report

Sidney Brook: riparian planting will be Friday and need volunteers. Another no-cost time extension will be required to complete the project (Bill).

Highlands committee: no meetings

Sustainable NJ - no report

Environmental easement education all ready discussed- see above.

No hearings from citizens as none present

Michelle inquired as to when the newsletter will be started

Suggestion was made to possibly get someone to speak on mosquitoes. "Tog" is with the county health Dept and he may be available to speak

Motion to approve May minutes, subject to minor changes from Bill and Steve, -moved and approved.

Motion to adjourn by Steve H seconded by Don- moved and approved.