

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, October 14, 2009; 7:30 PM
Pequannock Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room

Minutes

- A) Call to Order
- B) Roll Call
(Rudy, Christopher, Jen, Tom A., Lisa, Joe)
- C) Public Comments – *Ron Baran from our Green Team attended the meeting, he is the first member. Looking to have first meeting, sub-groups might be needed. Resolution on Green Team passed a couple of weeks ago. Joe will have agenda and run meeting.*
- D) Special Presentations
- E) Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes (*Rudy and Christopher*)
9/9/2009
- F) Budget Report (Tom A.) – $\$446.40 - \$79.86 = \$366.54$ balance, Ho Down prize, two programmable thermostats for home use. *We need to spend this balance soon.*
- G) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)
I submitted an ERI write-up to Steve Janoski of the Suburban Trends a few weeks ago, but Steve wanted to make a full article out of it, complete with an interview(!) which delayed things a bit. I think the article will be in this Sunday's paper. Once we get that, I'll be able to make a copy and submit to ANJEC to claim our grant money. (Please save your copies if you find it!) By the way, I also sent in something on the Ho Down but I'm not sure if that made the paper yet. Our Raffle winners, by the way, were Helene Klaassens and Cathy Kuschan, both of Pompton Plains. I told Steve Janoski about that, but he thought it would go over better with a photo of the winners, which I don't have.

We will have the Oct 17 hike in Mtside Park from 1-3pm, weather permitting. I sent a notice to the Suburban Trends and that should hit Sunday and Wednesday. I also posted a notice on the events calendar. I had wanted to post some fliers at town hall and the library but I was not able to do that. Anyone who can, please do. I expect to have some scouts show up for the hike so I'm looking forward to a good turnout. All EC members who can, please attend.

I've also been communicating with Alison Beshada about doing something with her scouting group at some point - I gave her some choices for tour ideas and

she's going to get back to me about what she'd like to do. Bill Pereira of DPW contacted me and said that he'd help with a tour in any way he could, so we should be able to put something interesting together.

We should discuss whether the EC collectively thinks it is worth it to have Jeff Keller come out in the springtime - \$400 is a big chunk of our budget, but I like Tom A's idea of paying toward that from this year's budget and from next year's. Also, I think Jeff would do it for less if we asked him to - what's it worth to us if he led a hike of say 20 people and gave a presentation at Cedar Crest to another, say, 50 people? It would be a very high quality thing for whomever participates. I was thinking maybe we could reach out to the North Boulevard and High School Env Clubs to get a higher attendance.

I contacted MCMUA about having another Household Haz Waste / Electronics Collection Day in spring 2010. Usually they like to see what their options are before they will commit, so we'll have to wait another month or two before we know.

Also, we'll be resuming the stream inspections again soon! We need to ask Joe if he thinks we have to notify people (that didn't seem to work last year) or whether we can just do the inspections with our badges. There's also a question about naming unnamed streams: at some point last year, I think Joe suggested that if a stream were not named, we could suggest a name to the Council. I'm not sure if there's an approval process but if names are to become official, it seems to me that there is. I would think we'd want to avoid names that would be "charged" (for example, if I were a Mets fan and someone wanted to name the stream by me "Yankee Stream", I might be upset if the naming process hadn't been fair!). There may be quite a few unnamed streams as we move into the western side of town, so I wanted to become more familiar with this process.

H) **Town Council Liaison Report (Joe)**

Three homes demolished along river walk.

Leaning towards not joining Highlands and we might opt out of COAH.

Water charges problem at Glens, multiple units on one meter to save costs of meters. If water usage was above a certain amount they went to a higher tier of charges. Since multiple units were on one meter they often went to that higher tier of charges. Now there will be a \$5 fee on their bills for the water meter and the higher tier water usage will be multiplied the number of units serviced by the meter.

Now having joint BOE and Council meetings. Will add BOE fields to Parks and Recreation's Master Plan. Shared services with BOE, when contract on field maintenance is up, may have town maintain fields.

The fueling facility at DPW about one month away, BOE will use too.

May get grant writer, split costs with BOE.

We get credit for recycling, may be able to do better with schools recycling.

May put up a second hand shed like Lincoln Park uses. Residents can drop off good usable items and get items for free that are in the shed.

Maybe a farmers market in town in the spring.

I) **Planning Board Liaison Report (Philip)**

Joe says they are not busy.

J) **Open Space Liaison Report (Rudy)**

They will be starting negotiations on purchasing the last home on North Pequannock Avenue. First part of river walk might be from Regency House to 202 Bridge. Some concern over maintenance of land after homes are demolished.

K) **Garbage Committee Report (Joe?)** *Now active, report to Council by January.*

Met with Lincoln Park, they are switching over to curbside recycling. Town employees will pick up. Looking at sharing services by getting leaves from other towns to our site. Next week going to Newark to look at recycling process.

L) **Business**

1) ERI – Final step: get reimbursement from ANJEC.

2) Ditch/Flood Gate inspections. *Can start soon, after first frost*

3) Annual River Clean up set for 4/17/2010.

4) PV Park water quality/clarity. *Big discussion at Parks and Recreation meeting, waiting for engineering report on berm. Joe, maybe pump sand from bottom of Woodland to restore PV. Joe, lowering water in PV Park is key. Jen rent kayaks. Jen, train for triathlon for a fee. Joe, Triathlon next year in town. Joe, add pool and splash park to PV Park. Joe, have PV Park open year-round. Christopher and Rudy, use compressed air cannon to scare geese away.*

5) Community Garden, status? *Three of the four sides of fence up, last one will be put up on Sunday. Community Garden Club will start over winter; members might be sought in newspaper article.*

6) Ho-Down. *Went very well. Next year may not want prizes that need to be delivered, winners more often and present for prizes at Ho-Down. Tom N's bag decorating went over very well.*

M) **Action Items:**

All:

1) Continue Stream inspections on hold until cold weather.

2) Other presentations, ANJEC at Library.

Tom Newman:

1) Coordinate with C. Lotito on write-up of inspection of "Washington Park / Lyman Ave ditch".

Not Done.

2) Continue to coordinate Oct 17th Hike

done - please distribute some fliers at town hall while you're there for the meeting, and also at library, also word out to North Blvd Enviro Committee, other groups.

3) Spring 2010 Household Haz Waste Drop Off day: we are still waiting to hear from MCMUA whether they will come to Pequannock in 2010.

4) ERI Raffle Prize -- given to winners; Steve Janoski wanted photo for the paper but I havent been able to do that - is this something we'd want to do? If so I can still try to do it, but it's getting pretty long after the fact now.

Joseph Jorgensen:

1) Get township staff for "Green Team" for "Sustainable NJ". Resolution from Council on Green Team.

2) Bring up with Council, litter at Route 23 turnaround/ crossing by Hess Station. *Dave Hollberg mentioned, will talk with Dave*

Thomas Andrea:

1) Do website updates, from 1/14/2009 minutes.

None done.

2) Keep track of municipal energy audit; the Contact is Ben Jackal with TRC Energy Services, (732) 855 2894. The town has sent information to Ben, I will contact Ben and see if he needs any thing additional from the town.

I spoke to Ben and he needs the Resolution and Appendix C forms filled out.

Dave says: I believe everything has been done, but it was done piecemeal over a long period of time. As soon as everything in one place, we'll submit it.

3) Get Digital ERI to town hall for inclusion on Environmental Commission Website.

Done, on town website: http://term.peqtwp.org/Pequannock_ERI_Full.pdf

4) Question for Dave H., can we pay for something this year and use it next year.

From Dave: Nothing should be paid before the service is rendered. Best way would be to issue a Purchase Order this year that will encumber the funds from this year's budget. As long as the payment is made before the end of next year, it's not a problem.

5) Another question for Dave H. do we have to notify residents about stream and ditch inspections?

From Dave: I think it would be a good idea to notify the residents. How was it done last year? My suggestion would be to walk the route and put flyers in people's doors - maybe some scouts or the HS environmental club could help out with that.

Jennifer Hardie:

Lisa Martinus:

- 1) Sustainable NJ.
- 2) Project Porchlight giving CFL's at Ho-Down. A booth next to the Environmental Commission's booth at the Ho-Down was reserved for the Project PorchLight folks.

Christopher Lotito:

- 1) Polish final stream inspection reports for season, coordinate with Tom Newman.

Rudy Steinthal:

- 1) Coordinate 2010 clean-up, *email action items.*

Philip Dickinson:

N) Correspondence (M – Mail, E – Email)

1) M2009-066

- a) From – Christopher Lotito
- b) Date – 8/18/2009
- c) Subject – Handouts for Ho Down
- d) Action – FYI
- e) Details – Packing slips of Ho Down Handouts

2) M2009-067

- a) From – STV Incorporated, 820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 200, Trenton, NJ 08628
- b) Date – 8/31/2009
- c) Subject – Flood Hazard Area Permit Application
- d) Action – FYI
- e) Details – For Sidewalk rehabilitation on Newark-Pompton Turnpike bridge going into Wayne

3) M2009-068

- a) From – David Hollberg, Township Manager
- b) Date – 9/10/2009

- c) Subject – Budget Hearings
 - d) Action – Submit a Budget Request (*Action item for Tom A*)
 - e) Details – Before Friday, 10/30, submit a budget request
- 4) M2009-069
- a) From – NJ DEP Division of Water Quality
 - b) Date – 9/17/2009
 - c) Subject – In Newark, NJ replacement of small diameter water mains.
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Work to be preformed in Newark on certain water mains.
- 5) M2009-070
- a) From – NJ DEP Bureau of Northern Field Operations
 - b) Date – 9/24/2009
 - c) Subject – Lack of response for 91 W. Parkway, Pequannock
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Sampling recommended for one location, since no response case remains open. (*Response was expected from land owner*)
- 6) M2009-071
- a) From – Township of Pequannock
 - b) Date – 9/28/2009
 - c) Subject – Purchase order submitted by Tom Andrea
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Reimbursement for Ho-Down give away reusable shopping bags and two thermostats given away for prizes.
- 7) M2009-072
- a) From – NJ DEP
 - b) Date – 9/29/2009
 - c) Subject – Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation-Line Verification
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Location 590 Route 23 Northbound, Block 902 Lot 16
- 8) M2009-073
- a) From – The Pequannock River Coalition
 - b) Date – 10/2009
 - c) Subject – The Pequannock Post Newsletter
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – A monthly publication by the The Pequannock River Coalition.
- 9) M2009-074

- a) From – NJ DEP Environmental Regulation
- b) Date – 10/2/2009
- c) Subject – Notice of Public Hearing for the proposed FFY2010 priority system.
- d) Action – FYI
- e) Details – Financing for projects.

10) M2009-075

- a) From – Crew Engineers, Inc., 1250 Route 23 North, Butler, NJ 07405
- b) Date – 10/2/2009
- c) Subject – Village Area Sewers – Contact 14-3
- d) Action – FYI
- e) Details – Permits for the upcoming sewer project in the Village are in town.

O) General Calendar

- 1) No Date - Educate residents about pulling invasive plants from town wetlands.
- 2) No Date – ANJEC Road Show in town.
- 3) *Spring 2010* - Jeff Keller hike with presentation at Cedar Crest, Mountainside to Cedar Crest, presentation, then back. *Can we video tape this hike, that would justify the cost if more could watch. Joe may have a friend that can do video taping.*

P) Adjournment

Mission Statement

We represent the public and its long-term interests as local environmental advocates. We work towards these goals by: advising the town council and the planning and zoning boards about a wide range of environmental issues that affect the town; advocating for open-space preservation; keeping residents informed of environmental issues; promoting environmental education; and working with neighboring commissions and other organizations to meet these goals.