

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2012

Present: Jackie Bay, Tom Carr, Margaret Gossett, John Horan, Todd Terhune, and Marnie Vyff

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the February 1 meeting were approved.

Committee & Commission Liaison Reports

Lakes Report: Allison reported that the last Lakes meeting was very lively with members of the public present to discuss invasives (purple loosestrife and milfoil) and sediment filling in Wildwood Lake at the north west end. The water level is currently low to allow for dam restoration and the dam contractor has been chosen. The fact that Allied Biological applied for a NJ Discharge permit was discussed and it was determined that Allison would follow up to determine why they would need such a permit.

Woodlands Report: Margaret reported that four beavers that were living in the Tourne were taken by the County and exterminated. This activity was permitted by NJDEP. Twenty deer were taken by the bow hunters this season. Deer enclosure by the school will be repaired this spring.

Shade Tree Report: Marnie reported that the annual Prune and Remove bid is ready to be awarded. The annual Arbor Day celebration at Wildwood School is being planned, most likely for 4/27. Lastly, the Commission has prepared a "In defense of trees" article for publication in Mountain Lakes Living.

Solid Waste Committee: In absentia, Bill reported that the new Committee is checking out different recycling centers in the County.

EC Projects:

Well Head Protection Ordinance: In preparation for supporting a new well head protection ordinance before Council, Khizar sent an explanatory statement about why well head protection ordinances are desirable. Council representative Dan Happer also sent an email with a series of questions regarding well head protection. Due to work and family commitments the two leaders of this initiative, John and Khizar, have not been able to attend meetings at the same time. Margaret and Jackie are recommending that a thorough discussion of Dan's questions be tabled until the May 2nd EC meeting.

Next steps continue to be a onsite inspection of the well located on the Rockaway River Country Club site including pictures and measurements from the well to the shed in question.

In terms of other town's actions, John reported that Mt Olive is putting an ordinance into place and said he would obtain their rationale. Similarly, Jackie attended a local ANJEC seminar and met the Chair of the Denville EC. They have a well head protection ordinance before Council now and we should obtain their background information. His name is Al Atkinson and he can be reached at 973 627-8169 or asa@verizon.net.

Contaminated Sites: NJDEP is moving oversight of the contaminated site remediation to private LSRP's by May 9. A remedial priority ranking system will be release in the next couple of weeks and Todd asked that we see where the Mtn Lakes sites fall before beginning more aggressive site monitoring on the part of the EC. Our B&V site may be given a higher priority given its proximity to our primary well. Unfortunately, he believes that the Site is not fixable from an financial or an engineering standpoint.

Planning Board: John reported that there was no Planning Board meeting last month.

Sustainable New Jersey: Mtn Lakes has achieved Bronze level certification. Jackie intends to work with the Borough to create a press release discussing this accomplishment as well as the ERI, municipal energy audit and new website. Secondly, we intend to advertise for people who would like to work on Phase 2 Sustainable Jersey at the upcoming community Empty Bowls event on April 17th.