

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2013

Attendees: B. Albergo, M. Gossett, M. Vyff, J. Bay, A. Rankin, J. Horan, K. Sheikh, F. Borin

Members of the public: None

Minutes: None approved.

Well Head Protection: Jackie spoke to Bob Tovo and was promised an update on progress post the EC presentation on Sept 9th. A citizen called to complain that Thrift Auto was painting cars behind their facility under a tent within the wellhead protection zone. Bob followed up and told Jackie that they were not painting – only occasionally washing – and that the ML police were monitoring the situation.

Sustainable Jersey: None

Waterview: Frank reported that the ML Council had contacted the Parsippany Council to receive confirmation that the existing buffer along Intervale Road would remain in its natural state. They have received no response. Margaret and Jackie spoke at length about C4HWS's efforts to find experts to speak on the public's behalf at the critical October 1 Parsippany Council ordinance meeting. The group has hired Princeton Hydro at the suggestion of Todd. Letters to the editor have been written highlighting our concerns that paving 75% of a key aquifer recharge area will result in a lessening of the water supply. In addition, retail and residential establishments use an excessive amount of road salt to ensure safety for their clientele. The use of this road salt will degrade the quality of groundwater for the region. Lastly, Princeton Hydro's work revealed that soils on the proposed site are loose. Loose soils are excellent water filters but poor soils to build on. Mr. Merl reported that these type of soils can be unstable during times of volcanic activity, will make the maintenance of a 26 foot retaining wall very difficult and most importantly, will make saving the Doremus Ridge next to impossible. In his opinion, even trying to maintain a 200 ft buffer (per the current ordinance) along Intervale Road will not be possible because the soil will simply give way once any kind of ridge is cut into it. Sustainable buffers will need to be determined by geological experts versus RD Realty.

Committee Liaison Reports

Municipal Garbage Committee: Bill reported that the goal of the group was to improve the quantity of recyclables received. He said that cardboard was up but that they were waiting for new school programs to kick in and make a big difference. New bins have been installed in the schools and Mimi Kaplan is leading recycling initiatives. He reported that a green bag vending machine was in the works and that they are contemplating a 13 gallon size to eliminate the need to double bag.

Shade Tree: Marnie reported that the STC had received a Town Club grant and was going to put 2-3 more trees in front of the Borough Hall parking lot.

Woodlands: Margaret reported that a work group from AT&T was going to remove invasives in the pocket park on Morris Avenue.

Lakes: Allison reported that their recent meeting was cancelled and that the canal cleaning work was 95% complete. There were no beach closings the entire 2013 summer.

