

## **Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes**

September 5, 2012

**Present:** Bill Albergo, Jackie Bay, Dan Happer, Margaret Gossett, John Horan, Allison Rankin, Todd Terhune

**Public Comment:** None

### **EC Projects**

#### Well Head Protection Ordinance

NJDEP highly recommended that our Commission speak with the Passaic River Coalition (PRC) and with the folks at the Parsippany Water Utility to learn about successful Well Head Protection programs approved by NJDEP. They consider Ella Phillipone from the PRC to be a leading expert in this area. Margaret met with Kevin Ryan, Superintendent of Parsippany's Water Utility.

Margaret reported that Parsippany was offered assistance by the Passaic River Coalition's Ground Water Protection Committee in 2002 to plan for the prevention of pollution of ground water and to adopt a new Well Head protection ordinance, click here for a copy of the adopted 2005 ordinance. (<http://www.ecode360.com/5105016>). The ordinance details development and activity restrictions for properties that fall within three specified distances, or tiers, from the actual wellhead. Tier 1, as delineated by NJDEP, is the distance in which viruses and bacteria can travel through groundwater in one year. Tier two is the distance they can travel in two years, and so on. If viruses and bacteria reach the wellhead, the drinking water is contaminated. For background, Parsippany has 22 wells that serve ~52,000 people and 14,000 lots lie within the 3 tiers.

The restrictions by tier are as follows: Tier One: Prohibits new gas stations and dry cleaners as well as underground storage tanks of 50 gallons or more of hazardous substances, road salt storage and cemeteries. Tier Two: Bans underground oil tanks greater than 2000 gallons, septic systems, manholes or pump stations, and above ground storage of 2000 gallons or less of hazardous substances or waste. Tier Three: Properties that lie within this tier are expected to use design standards that minimize risk of contaminating ground water. These standards are already enforced with normal building codes. Of note, these restrictions apply to commercial properties and homeowners are not impacted.

This ordinance was enacted in 2005 without commercial or residential opposition and serves as a model for other NJ municipalities to follow.

Khizar reported that our groundwater is protected by several ordinances that restrict development within the prime aquifer area. An area that needs further investigation is determining what, if any, development restrictions apply to commercial properties that fall outside the aquifer area, namely the Hess and Citco gas stations on Route 46. Secondly, current ordinances only deal with development and not activities that could potentially contaminate the water supply such as the installation of a salt storage shed, for example.

The commission agreed to set up a meeting with the Passiac River Coalition to learn more about successful Well Head Protection programs.

### **Committee and Commission Reports**

Municipal Solid Waste Committee: The Green Team talked about the desire to conduct a waste audit at the high school to establish a recycling benchmark. This action is eligible for points under the Sustainable Jersey program. The municipal garbage contract bidding process is ongoing.

Woodlands Committee: Bow hunting for deer begins September 8 and ends February 16.

Shade Tree Commission: Marnie is going to meet with Bob Tovo to find out what can be done about JCP&L tree cutting activities.

Lakes Committee: Many of the rafts on the lake are out of compliance with the current ordinance and there was an enforcement discussion. Allison reported that the shoreline buffer at the Cove was not being properly maintained. Replacement plants need to be ordered in February for a spring planting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00