

West Deptford Environmental Commission
Minutes
20 January 2014

Present: Dave Sileo, Dave Keller, Ed Komczyk, Ernest Kraus, Bob Waller, Miriam Reichenbach, Sam Cianfarini and guests: Kathleen Scherf and Carl Miller.

Call to Order: Dave Sileo called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes: September 2013, no quorum; October 2013, approved; November 2013, no quorum. Discussion of when to open meeting for public comment. Decision to open meeting to comment twice on each agenda.

Old Business

Citizen Recognition: Ed Komczyk recapped reasons for Tom Zander recognition at Township meeting.
Web Site: on hold until Dave Sileo receives a check from the Township.

ERI Sub-committee Report: Dave Sileo explained the ERI to new attendees and Ed Komczyk distributed a proposal for an ERI compiled by the DRVPC.

Adopt a Park: no report. We are waiting for the Mayor to act.

Recommitment to WDNJEC: Dave Sileo is looking for healthy participation from our committee members.

Ed Komczyk asked if we could have the agenda a bit earlier. Yes, Dave Sileo will work on sending it out sooner. Dave Keller suggested that members and guests look at the web site and peruse the minutes of previous meetings to see what the committee has accomplished in the past year.

Sam Cianfarini swore in Bob Waller as the newest committee member. Also, as this is the first meeting of 2014, we needed to elect officers of the committee. Therefore:

Dave Sileo: nominated by Dave Keller; seconded by Ed Komczyk; voted in as Chairperson

Dave Keller: nominated by Ed Komczyk, seconded by Miriam Reichenbach; voted in as Vice-Chair

Miriam Reichenbach: nominated; seconded; voted in as Secretary

The committee members introduced themselves and shared some personal background information.

New Business

Open Seats on Commission: Dave Sileo has two (2) potential members for approval by the Township. One is a local police officer and the other is Jeff Hesser, an interested resident. Dave Keller suggested these candidates attend a meeting of the commission prior to being sworn in by the Mayor so they have an opportunity to see how the commission works and what it is attempting to accomplish. Ed asked if the police officer's work schedule might interfere with our meetings. According to Dave Sileo, the officer's schedule is clear for the coming year. Sam Cianfarini asked that we check with the solicitor to determine if there might be a conflict of interest for the officer. Ed Komczyk reminded the group that we now have the names of three (3) interested parties on the table. The group decided that vacancies on the Commission should be posted on the web site. We know that the Mayor has announced vacancies at the regular Township meetings.

Minutes: approved as corrected. Dave Keller asked that the secretary add sub-headings to the recorded minutes and this will be done in the future.

Solvay Updates: Sam Cianfarini reported that he and Committeewoman Denice DiCarlo, the township engineer, representatives from Solvay and representatives from the DEP met to discuss the water pollution problem in West Deptford. Though there are no actual acceptable levels or guidelines in place, Sam reported that tested levels of PFCs on well #3 (by Greenfields Swim Club), which is working 24 hours per day, were 38 ppt and 48 ppt. The Federal government currently has a very loose exposure level of 400 ppt (single exposure), and NJ has an equally loose exposure level of 40 ppt (lifetime). The DEP suggested that Solvay treat water with carbon filtration prior to releasing it into the Delaware River.

Sam said we need to prioritize issues and communicate with the public. He also reminded the group that there will be a two (2) year lag before we see any contamination level guidelines. Currently, well #5 is utilized occasionally; well #8 should be on line soon, and when it is up and running, well #3 will be shut down.

Dave Keller asked if the DEP gave reasons for the contamination levels at well #3. Apparently, contamination is different as the depth of the aquifer differs at various wells.

In addition to testing at street level faucets, there will be a periodic testing schedule of wells and faucets in the future. The plan is that all communications to the public will be joint statements from the Township, the DEP and Solvay. The next meeting of the above mentioned representatives may also include a sub-committee of this commission.

Sam reported that after he dismissed Solvay from the meeting he asked the DEP about the ongoing environmental issues in Paulsboro. Erica Bergman, of the DEP, is putting Sam in touch with other branches of the DEP to facilitate more testing and inspection of the issues in Paulsboro.

Dave Keller asked if the problems in Woodbury were discussed. They were not.

Sam asked about the possibility of involving DuPont in the testing. Also, Sam reminded the group that we need to be mindful of the development, environmental and economic impact of our future statements to the public.

Public Comment: Kathy Scherf expressed that she was glad to know we are moving forward with the water contamination issue.

Dave Keller wanted to know about township funding for the needed ERI. Sam responded that he asked the township administrator to include the necessary money in the budget. Hopefully, the township will pass a budget by June or July of 2014.

Dave Sileo announced that he and Dave Keller will make a presentation to the Township Committee on 20 February. This will be an embellished version of the presentation made to the Mantua Grove CAP in 2013. Sam reminded Dave that he must submit the presentation to the Township Committee by the Friday prior to the scheduled meeting.

8:20 p.m. Sam Cianfarini left the meeting.

ERI-DVRPC Proposal: Having an accurate, well-developed ERI is important to the economic development of the township. We have a proposal of about \$11,000 from the DVRPC to develop an ERI for West Deptford. Bob Waller asked if there are grants available to offset the cost of the ERI. Ed explained that there were grants available, but sources such as Dodge Foundation grants have dried up. He also pointed out that the proposed cost of the ERI is just .0028% of the township budget. The Commission plans to go to the local industries and ask if they might be willing to fund all or some part of the cost of an ERI.

Dave Keller explained the background work he has done regarding RFP materials that might be needed to complete an ERI. He noted that items such as emergent contaminants ought to be included in the document, and that specific items can be requested by this commission.

Funding Grants: ANJEC has some good links to sources of potential funding grants for an ERI.

Geiger Property: No contact yet with Mr. Geiger. Ed will continue to follow up.

Ordinances: Look at current ordinances dealing with loitering, littering, smoking, idling, etc., around public buildings.

2014 Community Projects: The project registry on our web site will be updated once the site is on-line again.

Currently looking at: storm water basin projects (i.e. Checkpoint Industries); catch water barrels; and rain gardens. Bob has worked with rain water catch/distribution projects. Rowan, Rutgers, and South Jersey Land & Water Trust have projects and programs to involve communities in water conservation and environmental projects. We should reach out to schools and teachers to assist in getting students involved in these activities, which can be done on private, public and industrial properties.

Ed shared a news article celebrating Wheelabrator's continued involvement with wetlands restoration, quail reintroduction and numerous other environmental programs. Wheelabrator consistently reaches out to schools, scouts and other youth groups to teach our youngsters the importance of a healthy environment and how to maintain one. Mike Kissel is the contact person, and we should speak with him.

Ernest Kraus moved that we make RiverWinds the site of all future meetings. Motion approved by the Commission.

Karl Ford is concerned about the wetlands project using the grounds between the RiverWinds Village and Solvay. He says he is checking on the project periodically, and so far, the company is doing a "moderately" good job. He also has an issue with the "do-not-mow" zone out Old Jobstown Road, which is mowed by the township on a fairly regular basis.

Dave Keller will look into the issue.

Dave Keller would like the group to investigate composting options. Individual homes, industries and schools can participate in composting activities.

Ed asked that Dave Sileo forward Bob Waller's name to ANJEC for inclusion in future bulletin and notification distribution.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.