



Environmental Commission

Minutes 16 November 2015

Present: Joe Rhyner, Ed Komczyk, Carl Ford, Ken Miller, Eric Agren, Rebecca Headley, Denice DiCarlo and Miriam Reichenbach

Alternate: Jim Robinson and Maureen Concordia

Guests: Christopher Linn and Melissa Andrews from DVRPC, Phil Zimm, chair of the Planning Board, and Deb Turner-Fox, twp. administrator

Call to order: Joe Rhyner called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Carl Ford moved and Joe Rhyner seconded the motion to accept the minutes as distributed.

Approved unanimously.

Public Comment: nothing at this time.

Old Business:

ERI Update: Ed reminded us that the 1979 ERI report was a good one – for the time. This is a meet and greet with the two DVRPC Reps: Christopher Linn and Melissa Andrews. The commission received materials from the DVRPC. The actual project won't begin until February 2016. The new ERI will be available in both print and electronic formats. We will have a tour of the township with all the commission members who can participate. We must look to local experts to add to our body of knowledge (Carl Ford, Dave Keller, Mike Hogan, etc.) The DVRPC needs maps of protected and semi-protected areas, easements, etc. We hope to have the tour sometime in March. The commission will look at dates and get back to Christopher and Melissa. Phil Zimm suggested we choose a Saturday and utilize the township bus for the tour. Melissa suggested that we need a project manager – perhaps Ed Komczyk. We had a lengthy discussion with the reps from the DVRPC about our plans for the future. We are all optimistic that this will be a positive experience that will benefit West Deptford.

Water Quality Update: no updates.

Chairperson's Report: Joe Rhyner updated the group on permit requests. There was nothing of great significance in the most recent requests.

New Business: Deb Turner-Fox (township admin.) spoke about our budget requests, sustainable NJ projects, etc. Miriam checked the price of banners, like those belonging to the historical society, and found they run approximately \$65 each. We can design what we want.

Financial Report: no new money.

For the Good of the Order: Ed reported that the Tall Pines area is officially the first state preserve! Also, if someone needs a copy of the 1979 ERI Deb will send it out (electronically) to all commission members. Additionally, Ed shared information about the Christmas bird count, a citizen scientist activity, on December 19. If interested, meet at 7:00 a.m. at Country House. Stay as long as suits your schedule.

Carl reminded the group that Troy DePrince would join us at our next meeting to talk about recycling. Carl will send the secretary a letter explaining planned absences in the next few months.

Deb spoke about chlorine storage in the township. West Deptford was fined for improper storage. Issues with DEP procedures are in place and posted where needed. The twp. negotiated a reduction in the fine (75% of fine allocated to monitoring; 25% paid to DEP).

Adjourn: at 8:40 p.m. Ed moved and Carl seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.