



Environmental Commission

Minutes 21 March 2016

Present: Joe Rhyner, Ed Komczyk, Ken Miller, Eric Agren, Carl Ford (via telephone), Rebecca Headley, Miriam Reichenbach

Alternates: Jim Robinson and Maureen Concordia

Guests: Kim and Katie Agren

Call to order: Ed Komczyk called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Ed explained that Joe resigned from the commission due to a conflict between the stance of ANJEC and his job on the Joint Base in Bordentown.. Joe is willing to stay in touch in an advisory capacity – for which we are most grateful! Joe is an enormous asset to our commission. Ed voiced our collective opinion that Joe's resignation is an enormous loss to us, and we look forward to his rejoining our group when he retires from his current job. Maureen Concordia will step into a full-fledged position on the commission (after a formal vote by the Twp. committee), which means we need to find another alternate to fill her previous post.

Secretary's Report: Ken moved and Eric seconded a motion to approve the minutes as modified. Approved unanimously.

Special Presentation: Katie Agren offered us a very fine overview for the need to ban microbeads in household products. Her research and visual aids were on point and most informative. Thank you, Katie, for sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm.

Public Comment: Joe Rhyner talked about the need for the Planning Committee to examine the GDP -- extra water allocation, water and sewage demands. Also, lift stations must be examined. There are six (6) acres of "maintained wetland fields" (not on the site plans) that need to be looked at. The Planning Committee must also address the issues of: wetland encroachment; a storm water discharge permit; and a now defunct brick culvert in the stream. Both Eric and Jim indicated the Planning Committee is aware of these issues. There is room for low-impact development.

Old Business:

ERI Update: see Chairperson's Report.

Water Quality Update: nothing

Grant Applications: Eric and Maureen will write a grant for \$1500 from ANJEC asking for assistance with open space stewardship. The space at the top of the boat ramp off Center Street is the focal point. Miriam moved and Ken seconded a motion to write/submit this grant application. Approved unanimously.

Chairperson's Report: Our ERI is officially underway! Chris (DVRPC) remarked that there is "lots of water in the Twp." Ed reviewed the highlights of our ANJEC conference at Riverwinds on 5 March. Ken told us that our ANJEC dues are paid; however, our workshop fees were not paid. Debby Turner-Fox (Twp. Administrator) will take care of this. We need to be very specific when asking the Twp. to pay bills!

New Business:

Earth Day Activities: Becky asked if we know the kinds of trees we will get for our seedling away. No way to predict what we receive. Becky will advertise the give-away through an "all-call" in the WD schools. The flyer will also be a part of the Twp., Riverwinds, and library blasts. Becky will distribute hard copies to local businesses. Eric said he would try to obtain the county portable LED sign so we could advertise the give-away at the intersection of Grove and Delaware Streets. Becky, Eric, Ken, Ed, and Miriam will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday the 16th to bundle the seedlings for distribution. Becky will be in charge. There is a clean-up/planting at the WD library at the same time. Bob Waller is volunteering time, effort and plants to this effort! The *friends* of the library and other volunteers will provide the labor.

Carl is returning to the area in early April; he expects to be with us for the April meeting.

Turnkey from ANJEC workshop and Twp. Bus tour: 1) get the "wheel" for Fun Day; 2) display of "where does our water come from"; 3) "how ground water works" – possible Eagle Scout project; 4) hold Twp. contest looking for "natural landscapes"; 5) examine NJSA 40.56A-6 what can this commission do?; 6) do we have a storm water pollution prevention

plan? (Administrator) 7) look at well-head protection areas (Planning Board); 8) do we have environmental items on the Planning Board completion list?

Eric gave a most enthusiastic "thank you" for the wonderful tour. Ed mentioned that we are willing to be reps at any Planning Board meeting.

Financial Report: no report. We talked about the need for a banner. Either Maureen or Jim's daughter can design one for us.

For the Good of the Order: Ed talked about the county bird count and the annual bird quest under the direction of Eric Mullenhauer. Joe mentioned the bald eagles' nest close to the 11th tee at Riverwinds. Miriam said she would invite Aimee Boucher to attend one of our meetings so we can coordinate our Earth Day and Fun Day activities. We received a request from Twp. for our by-laws. Do we actually need them? Miriam will ask Debby Turner-Fox about this. Eric thanked the commission for allowing his daughter to share her presentation on micro-beads with us.

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

Dates to Remember:

22 April, Friday
16 May
20 June

Earth Day
Next Environmental Commission meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Riverwinds
Meeting of the Environmental Commission, 7:00 p.m. at Riverwinds