

**Elk Township Environmental Commission (ETEC)
February 14, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

ETEC Members: Teal Jefferis, Donna Nicholson, Billie Chambers, Donna Weis and Frank Goss

Elk Twp Committee: Don Brovero

I. January 2007 Meeting Minutes Approval & Swearing In

- a. Donna Nicholson moved to approve the January 10, 2007 minutes, Frank Goss Seconded motion. The January 10, 2007 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- b. Larry Christy was sworn in by Committeeman Don Brovero, as ETEC alternate through December 31, 2008.

II. New Business

a. Grande at Elk – Sales Trailer Application

Teal Jefferis abstained from discussion or decision on this matter due to a professional conflict of interest.

Minor Site Plan – Sales Trailer Application was received January 20, 2007 for Blocks 29-30, Richwood Aura Road as part of the Grande at Elk. Plan was reviewed and it was determined there were no environmental issues or concerns regarding the planned placement and installation of the sales trailer. Donna Weiss will draft a letter to the Planning/Zoning Board with this comment.

b. Arbor Day and Events

Recreation Committee would like to be involved the events. Billie Chambers and Jeanne White looked into possible dates and events for the first annual Elk Township Arbor Day Celebrations.

- Billie looked into acquiring seedlings for distribution to Elk Residents and planting at the event. Billie will order 98 free trees from NJ Forestry Service as well as 100 White Pine.
- Larry Christy agreed to pick up the trees at Parvins when they come in.
- Will need an Arbor Day Proclamation from the Township Committee; Don Brovero will work with the Mayor to see if she will read the proclamation. We will use the sample proclamation provided by Billie.
- Jeanne White will be contacting Delsea & Aura Schools to get student participation in essay contests.
- Will post pictures of winning students on the Elk Website.
- Agreed the winning essay would receive \$100 savings bond and second place would receive \$50 savings bond.
- The County will provide a 5-6 foot tall red maple tree and plaque for planting.

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- Frank Goss will contact Lowe's to see what donations of equipment they may provide for the tree planting for the event as well as discuss with the Recreation Committee on the placement of trees.
- Billie chambers will reach out to Recycle Bank as they would like to contribute to the festivities as well.
- Donna Nicholson will reach out to Dean's Evergreens about the planting of the seedlings along the driveway of the recreational field that borders their property. See if Dean's may help prepare the bed for planting and get thoughts on location.
- Steve Kozachyn had offered to donate a tree; Teal Jefferis will reach out and coordinate with him. Discussed possibly using this tree as a prize, will need to discuss further.

c. Tree City USA

Billie Chambers discussed about the possibility of Elk becoming a Tree City and the advantages of it. It must go before the Elk Township Committee. It was agreed that at the March Elk Township Committee Work Session the ETEC would give a presentation to solicit the committee's support. The application is due December 31, 2007.

d. Volunteers to Attend local meetings

Don Brovero asked if members of the ETEC could periodically attend the Sierra Club and Gloucester County Nature Club meetings to remain connected to local environmental groups.

Need a liaison to those meetings. Don will send an email to the Sierra Club so they will send each of us notice and agenda's for monthly meetings. The Sierra Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month in Cherry Hill, NJ. No one volunteered for attending this meeting, but some members indicated that they may attend various meetings depending upon the topics and speakers.

The Gloucester County Nature Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in Sewell, NJ. Frank Goss indicated that he could attend these meetings.

III. Old Business

a. Phase I ESA Ordinance (Draft)

All comments were provided to Teal Jefferis.

b. Soil Removal Ordinance (Draft)

Comments were provided to Teal Jefferis. Donna Nicholson will review soil standards and provided any additional comments to Teal.

c. Agricultural Buffer Ordinance (Draft)

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Comments to be provided to Teal Jefferis.

d. 2003 Trails Grant

It came to our attention that approximately \$11,000 of the Trails Grant provided by NJDEP in 2003 remains for use. The State indicated that the Township needed to provide a summary of the intended use of the \$11,000. Teal Jefferis will develop a site plan for the parking area near elephant swamp; it was needed for the Tuesday February 20, 2007 work session.

e. ANJEC Membership

ETEC is a member of ANJEC and all ETEC members received packets. Further, there are available publications on the ANJEC website available to all ETEC members.

Briefly discussed smart growth application which is due March 30, 2007. This will require a resolution from the Township Committee; Don Brovero and Teal Jefferis will work with the Committee on this. Application may be completed by the DVRPC as part of their services with the preparation of the Environmental Resource Inventory, Open & Recreation Space Plan, and Farmland Preservation Plan, if the Township Committee approves their services with preparation of these plans.

f. Shade Tree Grant

Billie Chambers will follow up on the Shade Tree Grant to see if it is applicable and available to Elk Township.

g. County's Model Septic Disposal Ordinance

Teal received the draft ordinance from the County. ETEC members will review and provide any comments to Teal.

IV. Correspondence

a. NJDEP Water Quality Funding – Deadline for low cost financing and grants due by March 5, 2007. Teal Jefferis to review and evaluate the applicability and feasibility of applying for any of the available grant/funding opportunities.

b. NJ Shade Tree Foundation

Promotes tree City USA and Arbor Day events.
No grants. No interest by members to join.

c. Communications with Stephen Kozachyn regarding former landfill operations on property Block 191, Lot 25 adjacent to and shared by Clayton Block 1901, Lot 7.

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Steve Kozachyn had further communications with the former owner and is uncomfortable with the current situation, particularly as it relates to his personal liability. Teal spoke to Mr. Kozachyn and an environmental consultant. There may be NJDEP funding available for private waste cleanup; Teal will check on this and get back to Mr. Kozachyn and the ETEC.

d. Rutgers Food Innovation Seminar

Township Committee is sponsoring a seminar by the Rutgers Food Innovation Center on February 22, 2007 in the Elk Municipal Building.

e. South Jersey Tourism Seminar

South Jersey Tourism coming into Elk for a seminar in May 2007.

f. Wetland Disturbance Complaint

A wetland disturbance complaint that came into Don Brovero and followed up by Donna Nicholson and Mr. Brovero was acknowledged with positive feedback from the residents involved.

g. Rolax Property

Mr. Brovero indicated that the 40+ acres of the Rolax property is for sale and will continue to look into ways to get that property into preservation.

h. Gloucester County Agricultural Meeting

There will be Gloucester County Agricultural Board meeting on March 2, 2007.

i. 912 Whig Lane Road Property Update

Frank Goss and Don Brovero gave an update as to the current condition at the 912 Whig Lane property. The hole has been filled in, the owner issued a violation and fined. The building may need to be torn down. The NJDEP has issued a violation to the owner for unlawful clearing and disturbance of 37,000 +/- s.f. of freshwater wetlands subsequent to our complaint.

j. Gloucester County Nature Club Book

The ETEC has purchased 40 books from the Gloucester County Nature Club

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm

Next ETEC meeting will be at 7:30pm, Wednesday, March 14, 2007.