

Elk Township Environmental Commission (ETEC)
September 12, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

ETEC Members: Donna Weiss, Billie Chambers, Jeanne White, Donna Nicholson, Teal Jefferis, and Frank Goss

Elk Twp Committee: Don Brovero

I. August 8, 2007 Meeting Minutes Approval

- a. Donna Weiss moved to approve the August 8, 2007 minutes, Donna Nicholson Seconded the motion. The August 8, 2007 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Public Discussion

Mr. Paul Malloy and Mr. Dan Charnisky expressed concern with recent construction activities on Clayton-Aura Road by a Silvergate Development contractor (contractor name was noted as Pearson) in August-September 2006. Mr. Malloy and Mr. Charnisky were concerned that construction work may have disturbed wetlands and has changed the storm water drainage/flow in that area, adjacent to their homes.

Teal Jefferis indicated that he had spoken to Mr. Mitchell, the Township Engineer who indicated that the mayor and Township Committee were aware of this issue.

The dates in question are late August to early September 2006 time period. The Silvergate permit was to expire September 30, 2006 so all work had to be done by then. The issue was discussed and the Environmental Commission agreed to:

- Find out what Silvergate Phase this is.
- Find out what permits were required to do the work, including Wetlands/Letter of Interpretation or Transition Area Waiver, and Erosion & Sediment Control (E&S) Plan from the county.

Mr. Malloy and Mr. Charnisky left the meeting at 8:20pm

III. New Business

- a. Several Applications to the Planning/Zoning (P/Z) Board, including:
 - i. Minor Site Plan Application – Zone Striping, Block 30, Lots 14-18 & 20, New Jersey Avenue. In the industrial park off of Route 55; no comments.
 - ii. Ewan 77 on for the October P/Z meeting. Converting a residential home into a pediatrician's office. Looks okay, ETEC would request that the well and septic be shown on the plan and the capacity of the septic system be evaluated before approval. Teal to draft letter to P/Z.

**Elk Township EnvironmentSeptember 12, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

- iii. Minor subdivision (wooded area) for 2 individual homes on Block 47, Lot 16. No comments.
 - iv. HA Creta, Inc. Commercial development in the industrial park off of Route 55. Has wetlands delineation approved by NJDEP via an LOI. Need to look at drainage across the property and may want to consider pre-treatment for the retention basin. No other comments.
- b. Discussion regarding Elephant Swamp Parking Lot and work completed, sign variance application, and additional items (open space).

Need a sign variance from the Township Committee; teal will draft letter and provide picture for the next Township Committee meeting for September 18, 2007. Larry to work on the fence Monday, September 17, 2007.

Teal and Don to pick up the gate for the fence this weekend. Ten more loads of stone to be delivered. Agreed that 2 loads would be taken and spread at Elephant Swamp and the remaining used on the road/trail starting at the recreation field to the soccer fields.

- c. County Open Space Program

Billie Chambers volunteered to do research on the County Open Space program requirements for the township's responsibilities in the open space program. Billie will report back to the Environmental Commission.

- d. ERI

There was an Agricultural Advisory Meeting and there will be a tour of the town Monday, September 17th 4:00pm-6:30pm. Meet at the municipal building.

IV. Old Business

- a. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) ordinance. The mayor had questions:
- i. Do we want this for all site plans or just major subdivisions?
 1. Individual homes are excluded as this would require a plot plan, not a Site Plan.
 2. Env. Commission response-yes, we can't differentiate by acreage as to when an ESA is required or when there may be an environmental issue. An Environmental Impact Statement is already done for all site plans and major subdivisions.
 - ii. For those who give property to the township, would we make them pay for the Phase I ESA?
 1. Env. Commission suggests that the costs be shared.
 - iii. Who hires the Environmental Specialist for properties given to the Township?
 1. The P/Z should hire the environmental specialist through an escrow account.

**Elk Township EnvironmentSeptember 12, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

b. Soil Removal Ordinances

Teal will finalize and pass around the final for review/comment. Will exclude stone from this ordinance.

- c. Agricultural Buffer Ordinance – Will refer to the Agricultural Advisory Board before it goes to the P/Z. Teal/Don indicated that Mr. Mood was very happy with this ordinance.

V. Correspondence

- a. Community forest Management and Shade Tree grant – Environmental Commission received a seminar registration form. Frank Goss will attend the conference and report back to the group.

VI. Open Commission Discussion

- a. Elephant Swamp Protection-Teal will hold off on letter to the township Committee until all the work at Elephant Swamp is complete.
- b. Tree Ordinance –still waiting for comments from the subcommittee. Harrison Twp is having issues with compensatory tree stipulations we would like to evaluate before finalizing the ordinance.
- c. Recreation Committee asked the Environmental Committee to look at the tree planting options. The Group agreed Option A seemed better. Frank Goss will take this back to the Rec. Committee.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm

Next ETEC meeting will be at 7:30pm, Wednesday, October 10, 2007.