

Elk Township Environmental Commission (ETEC)
April 9, 2008
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

ETEC Members: Teal Jefferis, Donna Nicholson, Frank Goss, Donna Weiss, and Kevin Costello

Elk Twp Committee: N/A

Absent: Billie Chambers, Larry Christy

Public: Bill Rainey and Mike

I. March 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes Approval

- a. Donna Weiss moved to approve March 12, 2008 minutes; Frank Goss seconded the motion. The March 12, 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Public Discussion

N/A

III. New Business

- a. Mike Hogan from the SJ Land and Water Trust (SJLWT) attended the meeting to discuss the NJDEP Vernal Pool and Rutgers Stream Certification Programs. Elk Township is interested in both programs. SJLWT had 2 workshops 2 weeks ago. NJDEP Has 1 person in North Jersey that handles vernal pools and < 10% of vernal pools are certified.

Mike indicated he could do a workshop for interested parties in our township that would provide instruction on how to identify and document a vernal pool, by:

- 1) Photograph in the day time
- 2) GPS the location
- 3) Tape record sounds at Night

If a vernal pool is not formally certified, it is not protected. The importance of the vernal pool is they are breeding ground for frogs and toads. The training session would be approximately 2 hours and is best completed from spring until the end of June.

The stream assessment is being done with Rutgers Resources Program and uses NJ Dept. of Agricultural Guidelines to survey the health of streams. The results are compiled by Rutgers University and they share the results with NJDEP. The training is similar to the vernal pool and includes approximately 1 hr in class Power Point presentation and then site work.

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Mike is busy until mid-May. Would need a minimum of 5 people to do the workshop (s). Will determine if we have enough interest and schedule with Mike.

IV. Old Business

- a. ERI Draft Review– No further comments by ETEC.
DVRP has our comments and they are shooting for a final draft by the end of the month to present for public review and comment.

Will have a public meeting at our May ETEC meeting. Teal will add an article to the papers (Gloucester County Times and The Sentinel) and will invite P/Z members and the Township Committee.

Suzanne needs more pictures of Elk's Environmental Resources to add to the ERI. Anyone with digital pictures will email them to Teal by Monday, April 16th. Teal will forward them onto Suzanne.

- b. Finalize Plans for Arbor Day Celebration Event
- a. Billie Chambers got 100 trees and they will be delivered to the municipal building the day before the event.
 - b. Donna Weiss got 100 pamphlets on the Identification of Trees that will be handed out.
 - c. Teal will be picking up the River Birch provided by Gloucester County on April 18th
 - d. Frank and Kevin will go out and select the location to plant the trees and Kevin will make recommendations for soil amendments.
 - e. Delsea HS Environmental Club will help digging the holes and planting the trees.
 - f. The Mayor will read the Arbor Day Declaration and Teal will do the introductions and welcome everyone.
 - g. Recreation Committee will be providing and setting up refreshments.
 - h. All are to be at the Recreation Field by 8:30am.
- c. Electronic Recycling – No additional proposals have been received to date to discuss/review.

Donna Nicholson will check with the school on who they use for electronic recycling.

Growing Greener - Tabled

- d. Guidelines for Still Run and Swamp Pink – This is a long-term goal to provide to new residents. Will pass out draft guidelines prepared by Teal and Kevin to the Economic Development Committee for comment and further discussion.

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V. Correspondence

- a. Revised Plans for Pacili Homes on Ewan Road

Got approval from P/Z

Added note that all imported soil would be certified clean fill.

Will add wetland species

Added solar powered street lights

- b. Climate Change Initiative – Donna Weiss to read and summarize information for the group.

- c. Additional Extensions of LOIs were provided to Donna Nicholson to add to the ETEC Correspondence Log.

- d. Franklin Gypsy Moth Program

Received notification that Franklinville will be moving forward with Gypsy Moth Spraying Program.

e. Open Commission Discussion

N/A

f. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next ETEC meeting will be at 7:30pm, Wednesday, May 14, 2008