

Elk Township Environmental Commission

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

ETEC Members: Billie Chambers, Frank Goss, Kevin Costello, Teal Jefferis, Donna Weiss

Elk Township Committee: Tony Creta and Michelle Doyle

Absent: Larry Christy, Donna Nicholson

I. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2009

II. Public Discussion:

1) Arbor Day:

Mr. Creta made an inquiry regarding the plans to include community involvement for Arbor Day. Ms. Chambers reported that she consulted with Mrs. Ginsberg, Principal, Aura School regarding participation of students and teachers. It was agreed that during the month of April an Arbor Day web site would be created by Ms. Williams, the computer instructor, in collaboration with Mr. Don Brovero. In addition, Arbor Day fliers for distribution on and before Arbor Day will be designed and produced by the students as part of their computer instruction.

The Arbor Day Celebration planned¹ for Saturday, April 25 between 10:00AM and 12 noon will include:

- Mayors Proclamation
- Opening Ceremony will include brief welcome and history of Arbor Day
- Tree planting by ETEC and Ms. Eckfield and the 5th Grade students from Aura School
- Aura School children presentations (TBD)
- Distribution of seedlings
- Elephant Swamp Trail Walk guided by Mike Hogan

Recreation Committee will pay for four trees and consider providing refreshments. Teal will coordinate pre-planting arrangements with Tony Creta and Steve.

- 2) Bike Path grant: Jim Bacher inquired about the progress of the development of a bike path. Billie reported that the Bikeway Grant Program would be an appropriate funding source and suggested that the community should be surveyed to ascertain interest before going further. It was suggested that a question be posed in the newsletter and discussed with the Township Committee. Jim Bacher to present to the Twp Committee. Michelle Doyle and Tony Creta suggested that the Recreation committee may discuss this issue.

III. New Business – no new planning board applications

IV. Old Business:

1) Radon detection notification to be put in website and newsletter.

2) Holly Acres update – Lake Garrison has retained an environmental lawyer. Mr. Fralinger will provide ETEC with a copy of the remediation plan when it is approved by NJDEP.

3) Teal met with South Harrison Environmental Commission. They are amenable to exploring the possibility of collaboration with ETEC and ANJEC to submit a Delaware Estuary Watershed Grant for storm water management or stream restoration of the south branch of Raccoon Creek. A walk of the area is planned. Interested members of ETEC should contact Teal for time and date.

4) Expenditures for Elephant Swamp Trail Grant Project must be completed by August 30.

Committee chose low profile signage. Donna W will get estimate from Pannier Co. for 9 bases and graphic panels.

Other signage (trail closed, no unauthorized vehicles, township property starts here, stay on trail) will be purchased from Atlas for approximately \$400. Eight concrete benches will be purchased from Cooper Monument at \$200 per bench.

Kevin designed a perennial bed for entry sign area. Cost to be determined. This will come out of grant fund also.

Remainder of funds after the above purchases will be used for additional stone (recycled asphalt) for pathway.

Work dates will be set up.

V. Correspondence

1) Acknowledgment by the Gloucester County Nature Club Bird Quest 2009 for \$100 donation from the members of the ETEC.

2) Elephant Swamp Trail featured in March 2009 edition of AMC Outdoor.

3) Donna W. will respond to Tony Geiger from the NJ Audubon Society regarding his request to come and speak to the commission regarding inclusion of Elephant Swamp in the new trail guide. He will be invited to the April meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm

Next ETEC meeting will be at 7:30 pm, Wednesday, April 8, 2009.