

Elk Township Environmental Commission (ETEC)
June 8, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

ETEC Members: Donna Nicholson, Frank Goss, Vic Thomas, Donna Weiss and Kevin Costello
Elk Twp Committee: Mayor Phil Barbaro
Absent: Teal Jeffers and Barry Cohen
Public: N/A

I. March 2011 Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes unanimously approved; to be posted on website.

II. Public Discussion

N/A

III. New Business

- a. Targeting Potential Funding, Grants, Etc. – agreed to research grants and funding well ahead of application deadlines. Vic Thomas will prepare a calendar of dates grant applications are due. Donna Weiss will reach out to Alison Hastings from dvrpc to get a revised proposal/scope for the grant for the Conservation Element of the Master Plan.
- b. Master Plan – Frank Goss will talk to Planning/Zoning Board Planner about the process for updating the master plan so that the ETEC can be involved in the process. Would like to provide thoughts on solar farms and use Upper Pittsgrove as an example. Kevin Costello will do some research on the process and the timeline for updating the Master Plan.
- c. Review of Master Gardeners Elephant Swamp Walk – Vic Thomas accompanied the Master Gardeners on a tour of Elephant Swamp on June 6, 2011 and they provided recommendations and ideas for improving the trail. Some of those improvements include:
 - Only native plants should be used along the trail.
 - Poison ivy presents a concern and it was recommended a sign identifying the plant be provided at the beginning of the trail.
 - A sign for proper trash disposal at either end of the trail to encourage use of the trash cans.
 - A bag dispenser to foster collection of animal waste.
 - A plastic holder for the trail guide brochures for visitors.
 - A bulletin board
 - Signage on Route 538 on either side of the trail entrance to alert travelers where the trail is so people do not miss the parking lot area. It was suggested we ask the County to make 2 signs for Route 538 as this is a county road.
 - Signs at ground level identifying plants of interest to supplement current information signs. Phil will do a mock up and bring to the next meeting for discussion.
 - Vic developed a “trail guide” with more detailed information that could be used by teachers, etc. to lead a tour of the trail. This will be posted on the Elk Township Website.

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IV. Old Business

a. Elephant Swamp Recreation Trail:

- Stone delivery and spreading -Contractor who will do stone work emailed a revised proposal to Frank Goss; Frank will distribute to Kevin Costello to get a purchase order from the CFO. The work will be done in August-September timeframe.
- Gate and Posts – Kevin Costello will check into where the materials are so we can move forward with that work.
- Benches – one of the benches was moved and graffiti down by the creek. The bench will be moved back onto the trail.

V. Correspondence

a. Planning Board Applications

- Garrison Lake Pole Barn – Minor site plan. No comments.
- Wenonah Pond Development – the application was incomplete, as noted by the Elk Planner so there is nothing to review by ETEC at this time.

b. Phone Messages – 120 Buck Road abandoned above ground pool and high grass. Believe this is the Ledham house; will inquire with Dave McCreery whether it is on the “Clean and Lien” list. If so, township will mow the grass and put a lien on property to recover the funds.

VI. Open Commission Discussion

Frank Goss suggested the Township should consider an Illegal Dumping Fine on Township roads. Mayor Barbaro will bring this up at the next Township work session; an ordinance would be required.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Next ETEC meeting will be at 7:30pm, July 13, 2011