

**Elk Township Environmental Commission (ETEC)**  
**March 14, 2012**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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**Attendees:**

ETEC Members: Donna Nicholson, Bob Clark, Barry Cohen, Vic Thomas and Kevin Costello  
Elk Twp Committee: Mayor Phil Barbaro  
Absent: Teal Jeffers and Donna Weiss  
Public: Janine Gooch, local Girl Scout Troop Leader

**I. February 2012 Meeting Minutes Approval**

Minutes unanimously approved.

**II. Public Discussion**

N/A

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**III. New Business**

**a. Arbor Day/Earth Day Event with Girl Scouts**

Janine Gooch, Girl Scout Troop Leader discussed her plans to do a NJ Clean Communities 3 hr Cleanup on Earth Day with the girl scouts. They will use the pavilion for lunch and wanted to plant a tree in the recreation park. Earth day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Arbor Day is April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Environmental Commission and the Girl Scouts will combine Arbor and Earth Day into one event to be held Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> between 12pm and 3pm (Rain Date April 29<sup>th</sup>).

- ETEC will generate certificates for the Girl Scouts that participate. Janine will get list of names of participants to ETEC by April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Kevin Costello will reach out to Deans Evergreens to see if we can get a tree donated.
- ETEC will reach out to Recreation Committee to determine where they may want the tree planted.
- Janine will get saplings to pass out to the girl scouts to take home.
- Mayor Barbaro will read the Arbor Day Proclamation
- Final preparations will be made at the April 2012 ETEC meeting.

**b. Possible Change to Bi-monthly Meetings**

ETEC agreed to meet on a bi-monthly basis moving forward after the April 2012 meeting.

**c. DVRPC Municipal Resource Guide**

Kevin Costello received this guide in the mail and passed it onto Vic Thomas for his review of any potential grants. Vic will also pass onto Donna Weiss for her review. If there are any applicable grants for Elk Township, Vic and Donna will bring back to ETEC at future meeting.

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**IV. Old Business**

**a. Conservation Element ANJEC Grant Update**

Mayor Barbaro will bring the Resolution needed to submit the ANJEC Grant to the Committee for a vote during the next meeting session.

Kevin is completing the Grant Application and will submit once complete. The application is due March 30, 2012.

**b. Elephant Swamp Perennial Planting Area**

- At the last meeting Pat Spring, Twp Committeeman, stated he could excavate the planting bed. He also recommended starting a bank account specific for this work funded by donations. ETEC does not want to manage a bank account and will continue to work with Committee using allotted funds and any donated materials from local companies.
- ETEC will contact local companies to donate materials
- Plants will be ready for planting mid-May
- 2 people from the Rutgers Gardening Program will help
- Kevin Costello will inquire with Mr. Considine, Twp CFO, on available grant money for any of this proposed work.

**c. Elephant Swamp Interpretive Sign Replacement**

An Interpretive Sign was lost in the hurricane. Need to check the crossing repair contract has a maintenance bond that might cover the cost of replacing the sign.

**V. Correspondence**

N/A

**VI. Open Commission Discussion**

- a. Solar Farm Approved
- b. Church still outstanding and waiting for completeness approval.
- c. Swore in Bob Clark to ETEC.
- d. ETEC budget was set for ~ \$1,000 for the year. Need to confirm funds for this year.

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- e. Barry Cohen inquired as the authorization of ETEC members to enter job sites in the Township. This was discussed; ETEC has no regulatory authority at any jobs but can make observations if see issues.

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next ETEC meeting will be at 7:30pm, March 14, 2012