

**Environmental Commission
Washington Township (Morris Cty), New Jersey
Minutes of December 05, 2005**

Prepared by: Anthony F. LaVista Esq.

I. Attendance:

Present: Mark Napolitano, Anthony LaVista, Merv Haines, Robert Balsamo, CJ Sinko, Joel Wien.

Absent: Paul Krylowski, Diedre Donnelly, Frank Ferraro, Kim Kaiser (Township Committee)

II. Minutes of 11/15/05 were approved.

III. Path in the Woods at Palmer Park

Mark received a call from Ms. Wormer (Rec Department) about a ½ mile path behind one of the baseball fields in Palmer Park that the township would like to use for hiking and rollerblading. There is a DEP grant that the Township is trying to get to help build this trail. As part of the grant process, the township must identify any endangered species that are may be in the area. Mark suggested that she check the DEP website which contains a list of endangered species which have been found in different areas of the State.

IV. Vernal Pool Project Update

Since Paul was not present, Mark gave an update of what he knows about this project. We are still having a problem identifying the locations of our sites with the type of coordinates we were provided. Mark did some research and found out that there exists software that can convert these coordinates into something that we can use. Roger Reed of the Washing Township DPW may be able to help, Mark will follow up with him. CJ volunteered to use his GTS on weekends since we were unable to get the Township's during non-working hours or weekends. Mark will also get Merv a copy of the Vernal pools pamphlet .

V. Environmental Commission Website Update.

Mark informed the commission that he added the legislation that establishes the environmental commission to the website. Minutes and Agendas are up from September to the present. We also have an email box. Mark will establish a free email address and link it to the website. Mark would also like to post the article from the Observer Tribune in which he was interviewed about the vernal pools project. He will give Phil Garber a call and ask permission to use the article. CJ suggested that we add a list of endangered species and Anthony suggested that we add a counter to the website.

VII. Objectives for 2006

The Commission brainstormed objectives for 2006 and came up with the following:

1. Improve communications with the Township Committee
2. Finish the Vernal Pool project

3. Establish a set of Bylaws
4. Continue to build the Website
5. Focus our stream testing on Hot Spots.

VIII. Chairman for 2006-2008

The Commission discussed the fact that we haven't had an official chairman for a year now. No present member of the commission wishes to take on the role of chairman. Therefore it was decided that we would divide up the duties amongst our members. The duties will be assigned as follows:

1. Public contact: Anthony
2. Checking the Mailbox in the Town Hall: Mark
3. Secretary: creating Agenda's and Minutes Open, Anthony will continue until this is decided
4. Laboratory contact for stream testing: CJ
5. Stream Testing Water Quality Report Summary: CJ
6. Chairing the Meetings: rotate alphabetically starting in January (Mark will send out a schedule)
7. Preparing the Budget: Mark

XI. Review of Proposed Ordinances

- A. View Shed.:A majority of the Commission believed that this ordinance did not deal with anything "environmental" and therefore the commission should not comment on it.
- B. Fertilizers & Pesticides: The Commission felt that the products prohibited and allowed should be better defined in the ordinance.
- C. Stream Corridor: The Commission felt the ordinance should state that the affected area should be the "greater of" 300ft or the 100 year flood line. Also, it was not clear who would determine what permitted activity would be allowed to take place in the defined area.

X. Next Meeting: 1/09/06, Bob will chair.

XI. Meeting Adjourned.