

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
APRIL 29, 2013

Present: Sondra Epstein, Jean Forlano, Rob Gibbs, Pam Lewis, Karen Pennett, Don Pote, Andy & Jim Stout

Chairperson, Jean Forlano, at 7:30pm called the meeting to order.

Council Representative: Councilman Rob Gibbs was introduced as the liaison for the Environmental Commission

Minutes: March Minutes were approved with corrections

****Tree Report**

*Count of trees removed on Mountain Blvd for the road reconstruction was completed on March 31, 2013. A total of 103 trees were taken down, the largest 40". Mountain Blvd was walked and the number and size of the cut trees were recorded.

*50 Valley Drive, New Construction, Pinnacle, flag lot, 2-lot subdivision, virgin lot, 50 trees to be removed, replace 33

*56 Valley Drive, New Construction, Pinnacle, flag lot, 2- lot subdivision, virgin lot, 57 trees to be removed, replace 40

*915 Johnston Drive, 2-lot subdivision, house removed, 44 trees to be removed, 36 to be replaced.
Construction company: Elite Construction

*909 Johnston Drive, 2 lot subdivision, house removed, 57 trees to be removed, 28 trees to be
Construction company: Elite Construction

*183 Washington Rock Road- third inspection on the property, house to be removed from the lot. On the 1st inspection there were wet lands. 2nd inspection trees not marked, 3rd inspection the house box and tree map did not match. No permit issued

**We discussed that a list of recommended trees be supplied to household for their replacement plan. Pam was to research endangered species of tree.

****Planning Board**

A Planning Board subcommittee reviewed and finalized the Weldon Quarry review of the Somerset County Access & Mobility Study. This study included recommendations from various Watchung Committees/Commission. Planning board recommendation for Weldon Quarry

Assisted Living Facility

Open Space/Recreational Area

Small Eateries

Medical Facility, similar to a Summit Medical

Cultural Center

What would not be desirable: Housing, Office Buildings and Hotel.

Any type of redevelopment of the quarry is dependent upon how the traffic along the infrastructure will be dealt with and the Route 78 Diamond Hill Interchange in Berkeley Heights. This must be determined by the County/State Governments.

This review included property being set aside for Weldon to continue to quarry.

This final recommendation coincided with many of the recommendations of the Environmental Commission.

****Green Team**

Because of his experience and interests, Don Pote has been Environmental Commission's representative to the Energy Team (now renamed Green Team) since its' inception in 2008. Now that energy saving equipment has been explored and implemented by the Energy Team, its focus was expanded to other environmentally sensitive areas in conjunction with the "greening of America". Energy Teams have been renamed Green Teams. Don has suggested that other EC members be given the opportunity to replace him on this team.

****Miscellaneous**

- *Shred Day will be held on June 15
- *Review of sapling program in Chatham
- *Review of trailers

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 PM at borough Hall, meeting changed due to holiday
Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05

Respectfully submitted
Karen Pennett, Recording Secretary
Watchung Environmental Commission