

**WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 26, 2013**

Present: Sondra Epstein, Jean Forlano, Rob Gibbs, Pam Lewis, Karen Pennett, Don Pote

Absent: Andy & Jim Stout

Guest: Ginnie Oliver

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

\*\*April and May Minutes approved.

June minutes to be reviewed at next meeting.

**\*\*Tree Report**

\*72 Edgemont: 4 trees removed all dead and uprooted

\*7 Deer Run: Stop work order issued: 14 trees removed 6 dead 8 live. Soil dumping on property. No violations issued. Sondra to follow up if trees to be replaced

\*25 Corey Lane: house extension: 20 trees removed 1 dead, 19 trees replaced

\*97 Park Place: 4 large trees to be removed. This resident previously applied for 6+ trees to be removed and then withdrew the application. Resident using original permit for 4 trees, so the resident does not need approval based on the old tree permit.

\*25 Blue Wolf Trail: new construction: 12 trees to be removed. 2 trees will be replaced; the remaining 10 are within building envelope so no replacement necessary.

**\*\*Planning Board**

\*45 Rock Avenue & 59 Rock Avenue: lot line adjustment. No environmental issues

\*Crystal Ridge would like to change from manned Gate House to un-manned electric gating/camera system. No environmental issues

\*Question was raised if members of the Environmental Commission had the authority to go onto the properties that were being reviewed by the planning board for purposes of the Environmental Commission. Karen will check with Planning Board Attorney for his opinion.

**\*\*Green Team**

\*No report

**\*\*Miscellaneous**

\***Environmental Movie:** Pam & Karen to develop business plan for the commission to approve to show a movie with environmental impact to the residents of Watchung. Plan to be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Watchung Library will be showing the film "No Impact Man" at 7:00 pm on September 19. Don will attend to see what kind of interest there is by the residence.

\***Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act):** Rob brought to the Commission's attention that the Highlands Council is seeking support from the municipalities that receive drinking water from New Jersey's Highlands. Watchung receives 25-50% of their water from the Highlands. The Watchung Environmental Commission is in complete support the Highlands Council's objectives and the Highlands Act. Rob will request Council to create a resolution supporting the Highland Council and the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

\***Recommended Native Trees and Shrubs Listing:** Pam researched a list from The Native Plant Society of New Jersey that includes soil preferences of native trees and recommended shrubs that support

the food/and or habitats of native birds, mammals, insects and butterflies. Pam recommended that this list should supplement the Borough's recommended tree replacements list as it is specific to our topography and will educate community which native shrubs support our treasured wildlife that is integral to the sustainable future of natural resources and community. The commission is recommending to modify the current tree ordinance to include a tree replacement policy where trees being removed be replaced with a percentage of same type tree classification: Deciduous or Conifers. Members of the commission were asked to bring to the next meeting their recommendation for wording for the percentage deciduous to conifer tree for the Tree Ordinance.

**\*\*Correspondence**

\*No Correspondence

Next meeting: Monday September 23, 7:30 PM at Borough Hall. With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Pennett, Recording Secretary

Watchung Environmental Commission