

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

OCTOBER 24, 2016

Present: Karen Pennett, Sondy Epstein, Rachel Funcheon, Don Pote, Joan Tak, Jim and Andy Stout, George Sopko

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The September 29, 2016 minutes were approved. Joan Tak was introduced to the members and welcomed and is interested in becoming a member and was observing the meeting. Karen gave her the necessary paperwork to be filled out.

Tree Report:

--9 Robin Glen, 10/6/2016: Remove 4 trees, 2 dead, 2 diseased.

--454 Ridge Road, 10/6/2016: Remove 7 trees, one tree had fallen on house, 6 dead, 1 diseased

--50 Lakeview, 10/6/2016: House to be torn down, Builder is taking 19% of the lot. He can only build on 20% of the lot in this zone. There will be no room for side lot shrub screening. No variance is required. 17 trees removed. Trying to save a large oak and one dogwood on the property which are not in the house box. The Environmental Commission unanimously voted that the oak and dogwood trees cannot be cut.

--210 Mountain Blvd., 10/6/2016: Elite Builders have purchased this property and will be renovating the house and making two apartments in the out building. Remove 5 trees, 4 dead and one live, replace 1@2 & 1/2 inches.

Joan Bertuccelli-Tak will serve as the alternate tree inspector when Sondra Epstein is away.

Sondra is looking into tree prices for the Tree Bank.

Planning board: No meeting

Open Space: No meeting

Bottle Caps: The program is continuing to go well. Rachel brought a huge number of caps to Whole Foods in Madison, where they were accepted by the store manager. Some problems with contamination of the bin at the library, i.e. unacceptable items like metal caps and sprayers, so Rachel has been adjusting the signage on the bin to try to correct the problem. Warren Library has its bin up and running, and that is likely cutting down on the number of caps that Rachel has been collecting in Watchung.

Pipeline: The Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline(CAPP) held a potluck dinner/public meeting in Parsippany last week. Members of the coalition and some concerned residents attended. It was a constructive meeting. They heard updates on the current state of the project and, also, formed committees to help further the effort to stop the pipeline.

Rachel reported that Mayor Pote announced at the last Council meeting that he and some other members of the MPG(Municipal Pipeline Group) were going to Trenton on Monday, Oct. 24th, to meet with the DEP to discuss the project.

PP still has not filed permits with the DEP. There is some speculation that they may do so in Dec. just before the holidays. Also, there is some talk that PP is trying to find an alternate route for the pipeline in the northern part of NJ where it would go thru less of the environmentally sensitive Highlands region where almost half of NJ residents get some of their water.

Old business: Karen received recycling lids at her house to be placed on the recycling barrels for the fall festival. There is hope that these lids will help to discourage individuals from placing garbage inside these barrels rather than in the trash containers.

George is interested in feedback concerning an article that he sent related to a boy scout from Elkhart, Indiana, and his grapefruit solution project, used to reduce the population of geese from inhabiting certain areas frequently used by humans. He will resend the article.

New business: The 2017 calendar of meeting dates will be reviewed at the next meeting. Karen will email each member a copy of the proposed dates for feedback.

There is an article in the **Echoes-Sentinel** in which Rachel discussed issues involving the proposed pipeline. We should all make an effort to read it.

Review of assignments for next meeting: The meeting originally scheduled for Nov. 28, 2016 has been changed to Dec. 5, 2016.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM