

Watchung Environmental Commission Minutes(Final)

December 5, 2016

Present: Karen Pennett, Rachel Funcheon, Don Pote, Joan Tak, Jim and Andy Stout

Absent: Sody Epstein, George Sopko

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The October 24, 2016 minutes were approved.

New Member: Joan Tak was approved and welcomed as a new member.

Budget: The 2017 budget is due on Dec. 21. Karen will talk to George. \$1050 is the current budget. Karen mentioned membership costs such as for ANJEC and other organizations.

Minutes and the Website: The acting secretary for the month will send copies of the minutes to Michelle(Borough Clerk) and Karen(Chairperson) after the minutes receive final approval.

Tree bank: Karen will check with George Sopko as to what amount of money is presently in the tree bank, what was taken out, and for what that amount was used.

Tree Report: Sody's November 2016 Report is as follows:

--206 High Tor Drive, 11/02/2016. We have visited this lot before. There is more Ash die off. 16 dead trees will be removed—15 ash and 1 oak.

--56 Beechwood, 11/02/2016, new construction, virgin lot, 1.08 acres, wetlands on lot, builder is Landrest Corporation. Remove 25 trees. Replace 13 @ 21/2 inches.

--220 Washington Drive, 11/28/16, owner has put up solar panels on the roof and now wants to cut trees. Remove 7 trees, 1 dead, 6 live(These trees were 26", 24", 22", 18", 16" in diameter). Donation was made to the tree bank in the amount of \$1,400.

--Regarding Sody's research into the prices of trees and the estimate for replacements from the Great Swamp Greenhouse, Joan will get a second opinion on prices, and Karen will also check on tree prices. Do we need to increase our tree bank prices? \$200 is the amount now for each tree replacement that is required for the tree bank, and the amount seems low.

--Additional pertinent tree information—212 dead or diseased trees were removed by permit in Watchung in 2016. 463 live trees were removed by permit in 2016. \$1,600 was paid to the tree bank.

Planning Board:

--Proposal has come to the Planning Board for the redevelopment of the property on Route 22 where Sears is currently located. Plans that were originally to be discussed in November were postponed until January.

--The board is considering participation in the county Complete Streets program a part of which consists of bike path construction.

Open Space: No report

Bottle Caps: The bottle cap program is progressing well, as usual, with many caps being collected.

Pipeline: There is no big news about the pipeline. We continue to organize and prepare to fight. The pipeline company still has not filed permits in NJ.

Meetings, Correspondence, Permits: None

Other(Old, New Business): A suggestion was made to try the grapefruit spraying for deterring geese at Mobus Field first to ascertain its effectiveness. George provided the Commission with the grapefruit deterrent information, so Karen will let him know of our suggestion.

Review of assignments for next meeting: The next meeting will be January 23, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim and Andy Stout, Recording Secretaries, Dec. 5, 2016 meeting
Watchung Environmental Commission