

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES (FINAL)

June 24, 2019: 7:30 PM

Present: Sony Epstein, Karen Pennett, Jim and Andy Stout, Council Member Goodloe

Guests: Alexa Speeney (student)

Ray Barratt

Marilyn Goldstein

Anand Rangarajan, PhD in Environmental Science.

Absent: Joan Tak, Rachel Funcheon

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM, May 20, 2019 minutes were approved

Andy asked if someone else could write the minutes. She and Jim will not be able to write the minutes. Karen volunteered.

Tree Report:

TREE REPORT JUNE 2019

1111 Johnston Drive, 6/03/2019. Stop work order issued. The owner of this property bought the abutting property 1101 and started to clear the property. The ground was very wet. Remove 6 trees: 5 dead, 1 live: Replace 1@4 ½ “

1101 Johnston drive, 6/03/2019, wet ground, Remove 19 trees: 13 dead, 6 live, replace 5 @2 ½”, 1@4”

Planning Board: Crystal Ridge Amendment, to allow installation of a dumpster and pad with related fencing, was finalized.

Valley View Environmental Club: Rachel and Karen met with the Valley View Environmental Club and gave them information on the Trex Plastic Bag Program. The Valley View Environmental Club would like to start the Trex program at Valley View in the fall. Members of the Club discussed programs in which they are involved: TerraCycle Recycling, Aeroponic Tower Gardens, and creating clothing with recyclables and having a fashion show of their wardrobes.

Poop bags: Council Member Goodloe will follow up. The bags were purchased however not put out around the lake for the public to use.

Recycle Bins for Town Events: Council Member Goodloe will follow up.

Tree Removal Permit: Sony revised and will distribute for member's review.

Deer Report—Recently released Deer Survey was discussed. There was much concern regarding the variances between the surveys. Guest Anand Rangarajan, a professional Environmentalist and Survey analyst questioned the validity of the survey based on how accomplished and the results.

New Business:

*Jim showed the members a copy of the "Watchung" sign which is being considered as replacement for the older signs now on some of the main roadways coming into town. The committee is still working on another possible choice, so no decision has been made.

*Received notice that articles for the fall newsletter due July 17. Karen will put article together on Preventing Waste and send out for members to review.

Review of Assignments for the Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on August 26, 2019.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pennett