

Elk Township Environmental Commission (ETEC)
February 8, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

ETEC Members: Bob Clark, Barry Cohen, Vic Thomas and Kevin Costello
Elk Twp Committee: Patrick Spring
Absent: Teal Jeffers, Donna Nicholson and Donna Weiss
Public: N/A

I. January 2012 Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes unanimously approved.

II. Public Discussion

N/A

III. New Business

- a. Alison Hastings from the DVRPC presented the 2012 ANJEC grants, with emphasis on a Master Plan Conservation Element for the Township. Alison explained the total cost of the Conservation Element project, available matching funds and grant monies, which all were similar to last year. Also explained was how payment for the project can be spread over two years, that there is no charge for the application, DVRPC can assist with the application, and if the grant is awarded, the Township is under no obligation to accept the grants.
- b. A general discussion was made on a possible perennial garden adjacent to the parking lot at Elephant Swamp. Kevin presented a landscape sketch for the project, and Vic indicated that the Rutgers Co-op will provide perennial flowers for the garden. A possible fieldstone wall and mulched beds would complete the area. Ideas for possible sources of materials, donations, etc. would continue at the next meeting.

Pat Spring suggested that he could operate the backhoe to help dig the planting bed, as the area could be stone filled and hard to dig by hand.

He also suggested that the Commission might consider opening a bank account based on the Township committee's resolution approval, where donation money could be kept for future uses such as the potential planting bed.

IV. Old Business

Elephant Swamp Trail:

- a. It was noted that the bridge over the Reeds Branch was completed and the Elephant Swamp Trail has been repaired and is accessible to users. Pat Spring commented that under DEP rules the bridge culvert had to be replaced with the

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same sized pipe as existed before the washout, even though the construction cost would have remained the same with a larger sized pipe.

- b. Kevin and Barry provided updates on the Catholic Church and Solar Farm projects. Our original review letters for the projects were still pertinent, as the design plans had not been revised to reflect our comments.

V. Correspondence

N/A

VI. Open Commission Discussion

- a. For the upcoming Arbor Day, it was discussed to limit the day's activity to simply installing a tree at the park.
- b. Kevin announced that the Environmental Commission's meeting dates would be for the second Wednesday of each month except for November, when it would be for the first Wednesday. All present approved these dates.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next ETEC meeting will be at 7:30pm, March 14, 2012