



Liberty Township Environmental Commission 2006 Annual Report

Roster: Chairman Phil Wooldridge, Vice Chair Eckhardt Debbert, Tom Webster, Beverly Gloumakoff, Bill VonderHaar and alternates Lorna Wooldridge and Frank Joseph. Eileen Greason, Secretary.

Meetings were held on the third Thursday of each month on at 7 PM at the Municipal Building. Memberships in the Association of Environmental Commission and the Ridge & Valley Conservancy were maintained. Information about the Commission, including the Non-point Source Pollution brochure, is posted on the web site libertytownship.org. The Commission was mentioned in the Summer ANJEC Report for the brochure on the website. Reports from the Liberty Township Land Use Board and the Mountain Lake Community Association & Watershed Group were presented at most meetings.

Solar Evening Presentation: Held on February 16 at the Municipal Building, the evening was a great success with attendance of over 70 people, standing room only. Scott Hunter, New Jersey Office of Energy was the keynote speaker. Vendors participating with displays and brief presentations included Sun Farm Network, NJ Solar Solutions, and World Wind and Power.

Community Day: The Commission's display next to the Mountain Lake Bog Riparian Planting site included an information table where many brochures were distributed, the NJ Watershed Ambassador demonstrating a watershed model, the Mountain Lake Community and Watershed Advisory Group, the White Township Environmental Commission demonstrating their groundwater model, the Wooldridge family's mother hen and chicks, and a composting display. This event served as the required educational event for the NJ Stormwater regulations. An Earth Machine composter unit, donated by Thomas & Carmela Lapchak, was offered as a door prize. The drawing was a success, with 38 entries. The winner was Barbara Alderfer of Belvidere.

Geographic Information System: A grant of ArcView9 software was obtained from the NJ Office of GIS. The software was installed and a meeting with Doug Schreider of the NJ Office of GIS was held. Requirements for continued support were explained. DEP maps have been downloaded and volunteers are learning the program.

Mountain Lake Non Point Source Pollution Control Project, Clean Water Act Section 319h Grant:

Consulting Engineer Spencer Pierini of Applied Water Management made a presentation to the Commission and gave an overview of the project and reported on the water sampling results. The plan for the installation of the vortex unit was reviewed. The Vortex grit separator and eight catch basin filters were installed. An extension was

granted until Dec. 31, 2006. Applied Water Management developed two brochures, as yet to be printed. Storm drains in the installation area were labeled by the DPW, and leaves cleared from the filter baskets.

Welcome to the Watershed Tote Bags: Commissioners distributed forty-three canvas tote bags imprinted with the Commission logo and filled with educational brochures to new residents.

Natural Lands Trust Mountain Lake Bog clean up: Volunteer Coordinator Martha Windish contacted the Commission to schedule a clean up along Tamarack Rd. in partnership with White Township Environmental Commission. However, her position was eliminated from the state budget. The White Township Environmental Commission has tabled the project because of lack of support from the Lands Trust.

Recycling: A sign "Warren County Recycles" was received from the Warren County Recycling Program and erected by the DPW in front of the flag pole at the intersection of Free Union and Mountain Lake Roads

Educational seminars attended by Commissioners: ANJEC Commissioners Course, Food Shed Alliance, "Pale Male"- showing of the movie at the Free Union Methodist Church, Genesis Farm Center for Food Safety- "The Future of Food", ANJEC Highlands Update, NOFA weekend, NJ League of Municipalities Convention

NJ DEP ESP Grant: 2006 application was accepted, but the program was not funded by the State for FY2006.

NJ Audubon Society Important Bird and Birding Area: Members of the Commission were instrumental in obtaining this designation for the Mountain Lake area.

Aquatic weed control: Aquatic Analysts made two treatments for milfoil in the swimming area of the Municipal Beach. Consultant Larry Kovar explained a weed roller could be used to manually control weed growth in the swimming area, as opposed to chemical treatment. The Commission is very interested in a non-chemical alternative, and he will be sending information.

Natural Lawn Care Presentation: The PCFA granted all Warren municipalities \$5,000, earmarked for recycling and/or stormwater management. Since the composter drawing was so popular, the consensus of the Commission was that a composting and natural lawn care seminar should be held. The date of the presentation will be March 15, 2007, snow date March 21. The first fifty Liberty residents who pre-register and attend will receive a composter, one per household. Tree seedlings from the NJ Tree Foundation will be distributed to all attendees. Speakers are being lined up.