

Metuchen Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2013

Attendees: Dorothy Rasmussen, Tom Rudel, Dan Hirsch, Brian Weeks (via telephone), Beth Strom (via telephone)

Recap of Country Fair, held October 5, 2013:

Tom felt that the first two hours was well-attended. Brian's waterway pictures garnered a lot of attention. We spent a lot of time talking to people who stopped by, and there is a genuine consensus that they want to see it extended further in town. Beth was telling people to contact Conrail, but unfortunately did not have any address to direct them to. Dorothy said that currently, the best person for people to contact is Senator Menendez' office. Dorothy has the name of a contact in Senator Menendez' office. We agreed that we should send his office a copy of the petitions. This will build on our momentum. We agreed that Mark should get Dorothy copies of the petitions and she will send them to the Senator.

Gulton Site:

There has been no news regarding what is happening with Gulton. There was a request from Gulton to be named a redevelopment area, but that did not go anywhere. We discussed the impact of that with regards to the Scout project, and felt that this should not interfere with that since at this time, the Scout Project is expected to be wholly on town property, although it would be nice to have their assistance and cooperation.

It is our understanding that they intend to sell the unbuildable portion of the property for a reasonable amount. It is our understanding that this may be contaminated. We noted that the State DEP is not being aggressive in moving to clean up areas like this. We do not have any updated information concerning the current status of the cleanup.

We also understand that there were some discussions regarding some different uses that would not include children using this property.

Dismal Swamp

Dorothy spoke to Joe Schaeffer and he agreed to provide her with the cost that we were considering doing if we get the grant money for the Dismal Swamp. The plan is to provide that information to John Wiley, who would then provide it to Bob Spiegel. Joe told Dorothy that he would need the property data that Ann gave to Mark.

There are two pieces to this project:

- 1) We want to map the area in GIS format – so we can take the data and layer it to make the data more meaningful. We are aware of a GIS mapping that was done by

Princeton Hydro. There were some questions about whether we can get the data and if we can combine it with other sources of data. If we can get the data from Princeton Hydro, we would need to find out the cost of combining the data.

- 2) Metes and Bounds – The information that Anne has recently provided us would be helpful with this. Anne provided us with legal descriptions of the property in the area, and the thought is that we can convert this information into a digital map. Joe has said in the past that he could take Metuchen’s tax maps and digitize them. Anne’s documents may also reveal other important information such as access easements, paper streets and drainage easements.

The goal of all of this is to create a website that would be useful for Metuchen and the public to access

Planning Report:

Dan Hirsch reported on the next day’s planning meeting. At this meeting, the Planning Board was to evaluate a minor subdivision that was applied for on West Cedar Street by LaPorta Builders. The plan is to remove a small house that is currently on a large property, subdivide the property and build two new homes on the property. The primary concern, environmentally, is that there are several mature trees on the property. The developer has indicated that they will make every effort to preserve the mature trees on the property, including winding the sidewalk around the trunks of the trees to protect the root systems.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Hirsch