

Clinton Township Environmental Commission (CTEC)

Thursday, March 7, 2024

1370 Route 31 North, Annandale, NJ 08801 (In-person); WebEx Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Attendees <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mario Caballero, Chair• Geoff Varty, Vice Chair• Sandra Millward• Doug Pecota• Robert Parkanyi• Danielle Kearsley• Amelia Reitman, Alternate #1• Dan Aguanno, Alternate #2 Non-voting members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brianna Casario, Watershed Ambassador	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sandra Butcher, PB Liaison• Amy Switlyk, Council Liaison
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Guest: Christian Bench, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

Meeting commenced at 7:02 pm

This meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, NJSA 10:4-1 et seq. Annual notice having been forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

Open to Public: none

Approve minutes

February Meeting (Eligible members: Mario Caballero, Geoff Varty, Sandra Millward, Doug Pecota, Robert Parkanyi, Danielle Kearsley, Amelia Reitman, Dan Aguanno)

-Minor correction to minutes (awaiting response from County, no company)

Motion by RP, Seconded by DP, approved without dissent

Presentation from USDA:

Christian Bench, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

- Various topics relating to how the NRCS supports farming in the area were discussed

Correspondence

- Response from Hunterdon County RE Transfer Station sale
 - Letter available in the Environmental Commissions Google Drive
- Wetlands Disturbance as part of Rt 31 Improvement Project
 - Details available in the Environmental Commissions Google Drive
- Email from Mayor Mullay RE Exxon Dam Removal
 - Work has been removed

Reports

- **Council- No Report**
- **Planning Board- No Report**
- **Open Space- No meeting was held**
- **Green Team**
 - Will not go for recertification this year, will go for silver next year
 - We continue to attend the CTSD Green Team meetings and looking for opportunities for collaboration
- **Site Plan Review Subcommittee-**
 - NY life electrical upgrade – technical changes not related to the EC
- **Watershed Ambassador**
 - Melick's Bridge 150 tree reforestation - May 3 @10:30 am
 - Tree replanting at Round Valley - March 10 @ 1:00 pm
 - Wineberry weeds removal at Round Valley – March 16 @ 10am

Old business

- Danielle - Latest on E-Coli sampling along the Rockaway Creek
 - No update
- Danielle - Round Valley Update
 - NJWS should be completing the fill in 7 weeks.
 - Spruce Run is overerrun due to recent heavy rains – no negative impact
- Amelia - Road Salt Testing – NHHS
 - Testing 12-24 hrs after recent snowfall indicted a high 125 ppm, need more testing (30-40 ppm steady state)
- Mario - \$2k, \$10k, \$20k Sustainable Jersey Grant applications due **February 9, 2024**
 - Dan provided quote for trail mapping. Mario is submitted the application
- Danielle - RHS Stream Cleanup
 - Round Valley Site 1 (Site 4a - Round Valley Boat Launch and Bray's Hill Preserve) - Danielle.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stream-cleanup-private-sites-tickets-851592495077?aff=oddtcreator>
 - Round Valley Site 2 (Site 4b - Round Valley Reservoir Park - Clinton Twp) - Rob.
<https://www.raritanheadwaters.org/stream-cleanup-registration/>
- Doug – Provided quotes: for removal, and for containment of Bamboo at the Regional Road Open Space site. He will get others so as to provide them to the Council. We want to stress that is better to educate and prevent than to eradicate later.

New Business

- Road work along Rt 31 on both sides of I-78 – Guard rails and communications lines – some impact on nearby stream
- Mario - ANJEC \$1,500 Grant - Application due April 26
 - Start thinking, we got it 2 years ago
- Mario - Stream Assessment with RHA and CTSD - Wednesday, May 22 9am - 11:30am
 - Chris will help with it
- Mario - Seedlings or Seeds for community day
 - Consensus was to use seeds, or they expire
- Mario – Advertising events are more effective and less expensive than using the newsletter. The Maple Sugaring event filled in two days and cost \$2 to advertise
- Dan - Upcoming SADC Appraisal & Offer of Exxon Property 850 acres Lot 30 et.al.
 - Propose County to purchase the land and rent out to farmers
 - Clinton Township Council and EC should prepare to provide input
 - Propose CT Council send a letter to Exxon stating wanting the land to be preserved
 - Propose to request a meeting with Exxon
 - Propose to request funding from State
 - Table it until Amy provides input
- Upcoming Events:
 - March 23, Annandale Train Station cleanup 9am
 - April 9 - CTSD Science Fair – Amellia and Danielle may be available - Mario to follow up
 - April 13 - Red Mill goes Green
 - April 20 - RHA Stream clean up
 - May 3 (was April 27) – Melick’s Bridge Riparian Reforestation
 - April 27 - Clinton Twp. Community Day – signup is coming
 - May 4 - Clinton Twp. clean up seedlings for the first 50, stainless steel water bottles of the group collecting the most trash
 - May 11 - Mushroom Foraging class 1 full – Windy Acres
 - May 18 - Mushroom Foraging class 2 – Windy Acres
 - September 28 - Highlands Green Fair and EV Car Show- Bunt Park
- Mario - RHA Meet the River Program – flyer on google drive – get back to Mario if interested

Open to Public - None

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by RP, seconded by DP, no objections.

Meeting ended: 8:30 pm

Business for next meeting (Thursday, April 4): Follow up with Amy on Exxon property