VOORHEES TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
June 11, 2013

The Chairperson called the meeting order. It was stated that this meeting is being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act and has been duly published and noticed as required by law."

FLAG SALUTE:

ROLL CALL:
Present: Mr. Hale, Mrs. Schwartz, Mr. Rashatwar, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Garbowski, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Wu
Absent: Mr. Belson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Schwartz made a motion to approve the minutes from May 14, 2013 meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Garbowski. Remaining present board members in favor.

COMMISSION UPDATES:

Kirkwood Lake Cleanup – Mr. Gaffney advised the County stated they own the lake so they would do something. What they are doing is getting the weeds out. Unfortunately, that won't help the water depth; the only thing that would help that would be dredging which won't be for at least 10 years.

NRI Review – Mr. Hale brought the review up on the overhead for everyone to see. He stated he knew the Open Space map needed to be corrected and then asked if anyone saw any other errors when they reviewed it. Mr. Hale then brought up the Historic Sites. He explained those that were on there were County and State registered sites that were on overlays; not anything we find of historic interest.

Mrs. Schwartz brought up the Aquifer map. She stated that in the past, what was really important was not just the general aquifer region, but if there were any pumps, well heads. Mrs. Schwartz then inquired about the Prime Farmland map. Mr. Hale advised that was one that was encouraged to have.

Mr. Hale stated the Open Space map would be corrected and then the review would be sent to the Planning Board and a presentation will be done by Joe Giddings.

Mrs. Brown stated the State is investigating the new mapping system and they asked for Environmental Commission members to come and be test subjects and see how it is. She was chosen to participate and will be going to Trenton next week.

Mrs. Brown then advised Mr. Craig McGhee is doing a project where they are trying to plant saplings in basins and they have money for it. They want towns to ask to have their detention basins turn into functioning wetlands. They'll pay for the plants and you don't have to mow them as much. It will improve water quality, beautification, and decrease maintenance costs. She will approach Joe Lovallo because they are just looking to towns to do this as they have the money. Mr. McGhee will be giving a presentation and she will let everyone know when that will be.

Sustainable Jersey – Mr. Hale stated they just submitted 245 points. All that's left is for us to get the Planning Board to pass resolutions incorporating these two things, the OSRP and NRI, into the Master Plan. The Township will then be 105 points away from silver. He then explained a few grants that were out there. One is a $2,000 grant, a few $10,000 grants, and 1 or 2 $20,000 grants. We don't need to be certified before we apply for them. He would like to send them a copy of the report we had done about the (inaudible). He'd like to see if we could use salvaging the roof of that building and having some sealing up work done and apply for the $20,000 grant. August 16th is the deadline for the grant.

Mr. Gaffney inquired about the talk that took place several months ago about enhancing the bike paths in Voorhees. Mrs. Schwartz stated it was in progress with Ronda Urkowitz – she works for Cross County Connection.

Mr. Hale advised we are going to be VCEF's public forum. Whenever they need to hold a meeting it will be an item on our agenda.

Mr. Hale then asked for any other comments from the board. As there were none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Merkh
VEC Secretary