

Minutes of Meeting of North Plainfield Environmental Commission 8/19/09

Dr. Allen, NPEC Chair, opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The 2009 Compliance Statement was read. Present: Dr. Allen, Skip Hansen, Jean Liss, Janice Allen, Henry Stoner and Frank Warren. Michael Bellew was excused. This meeting took place in the Vermeule Community Center.

The TCE report was revisited in preparation to meeting with representatives from NJDEP, Warren and Watchung regarding the output of TCE in the area at this time. It seemed that since tests have reported water leaking through asphalt, the apartments and shopping malls in the area could be in jeopardy.

Sue Jein, representing the Greening Initiative locally, is looking forward to working with NPEC in the future.

The elimination of Japanese Knot Weed in our area must be accomplished soon in order to maintain our green areas. Dr. Allen is composing a flyer that will illuminate the area's problems in regard to the concern in the local area.

The need for a meeting with the NJDEP, Warren and Watchung officials in regard to the TCE presence in the area must be scheduled very soon. Dr. Allen has been working diligently in that regard.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Skip Hansen

The next meeting is scheduled for September 23 at 7:30 pm in the Community Center.

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9/21

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Dr. Allen, NPEC Chair, opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The 2009 Compliance Statement was read. Present: Dr. Allen, Skip Hansen, Jean Liss, Janice Allen, Henry Stoner and Frank Warren. Michael Bellow was excused. This meeting took place in the Vermeule Community Center.

The Lockheed/Watchung Square Annual Report on TCE remediation was revisited. The big picture seems to be that the distribution of TCE has not changed much, but there are some monitoring wells showing decreases and some showing increases. The plume is moving slowly towards Green Acres, close to the prediction of the Modflow model, but the changes are not great. The groundwater flow may be slowing down due to the diversion of runoff from Watchung into the Crab Brook, but it's hard to say. There is some dilution going on in the vicinity of the recovery well, but that could be due to the increased pumping rate. The State still needs to set up the public meeting for the revised CEA (classification exception area). The report contains a graphic showing the vertical distribution of TCE using current well records. The problem is dramatic and shows that there will be TCE under Crystal Ridge and Regency for a long time to come. Lockheed acknowledged that there could be an indoor vapor intrusion risk as a result of this and has committed to doing further study. Dr. Allen will prepare a comment letter for review at the next meeting. We will also need to meet with Watchung Borough officials.

Sue Jain, representing the Greening Initiative, has excused North Plainfield from participating officially in the GreenDay event on Sunday, October 18, 11 am – 4 pm, but she is looking forward to working with NPEC next year.

The eradication of Japanese Knot Weed in our parks and wetlands must be accomplished soon in order to keep our green areas from being overwhelmed by this invasive plant. The Shade Tree Commission is spearheading this effort, which is being coordinated regionally by Larry Murrell in Piscataway. NPEC will participate as best we can, but we have limited personal resources.

The need for a meeting with the NJDEP, Warren and Watchung officials in regard to the TCE presence in the area was identified a very high priority.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Skip Hansen

The next meeting is scheduled for September 23 at 7:30 pm in the Community Center.

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9/25