

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 25, 2013

Present: Jean Forlano, Pam Lewis, Karen Pennett, Don Pote, Andy & Jim Stout
Absent: Sondra Epstein, Karen Cassidy
Special Guest: Heidi Rubino

Chairperson, Jean Forlano at 7:30 PM, called the meeting to order.

Minutes:

January Minutes were approved with corrections

**** Tree Report** –no tree report

**** Planning Board Update**—The latest Planning Board meeting was a presentation by Somerset County of proposed development scenarios regarding Weldon Quarry. The County had three proposals:

- *Existing Zoning Office/Conference Center
- *Main Street Destination/Entertainment Center
- *Mixed Use Assisted Living/Town Center

The Planning Board is interested in the opinions of the various committees/commissions views on the different scenarios.

Some of the concerns discussed:

- *What would happen to Blue Star with additional competition?
- *Lowe's Theatre is 6 miles away, so is another theatre needed? The Watchung Square Mall was originally to have a theater and decided against it; why?
- *No additional housing, would have negative input on schools and taxes
- *Would emergency services be able to handle the development?
- *How would infrastructure and roads need to be changed to meet any of the scenarios? And at whose cost?
- *People are not going to travel to Watchung for a vacation. Entertainment Center would not draw people to it.

**** Watchung Green Team**—no meeting

****Miscellaneous**

Various movies were discussed to show to the town, one in particular Chasing Ice. Pam was to research if supporting publicity material is available for the Chasing Ice film and to reach out to Dr. Jim the "Tree Whisperer" for his charge to make a large group presentation.

Next meeting: Monday March 25, 7:30 PM at Borough Hall.

Adjournments--With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pennett, Recording Secretary,
Watchung Environmental Commission

