



# Liberty Township Environmental Commission

## 2017 Annual Report

### **Roster**

Chairman Phil Wooldridge, Vice Chair Dan Kurela, Tom Webster, Rich Larsen, Maureen Bonner, first alternate Diane Gonski, second alternate Helen Danitz, Secretary Shannon Schaaf

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, 7 PM at the Municipal Building. Membership in the New Jersey Association of Environmental Commissions was maintained.

### **Aquatic Weed Control**

The agreement with Solitude Lake Management of Port Murray was reviewed and re-negotiated for the municipal beach area at Mountain Lake to include monthly treatment for the summer.

### **Cabin Fever Workshop**

Sat. March 25<sup>th</sup> a showing of "Hometown Habitat" was presented. The documentary discussed the importance of natives and the connection of plants to animals. A craft of twig balls stuffed with wool-roving was provided to the community.

### **Arbor Day**

Sat. May 6 a Free Tree Giveaway was held at the pavilion site at Mountain Lake. Trees were received from the state nursery through a Hurricane Sandy grant. Over 400 trees were distributed that day.

### **Community Day**

Sat. June 10 the Commission's display next to the Mountain Lake Bog Riparian Planting site included an information table where many brochures were distributed. A water balloon launcher was set up where participants had an opportunity to launch biodegradable water balloons at targets. "Touchy feely" boxes were set up for visitors to guess what the items might be. This event served as part of the required educational event for the NJ Stormwater regulations.

### **Dark Skies Initiative**

Throughout the year, the Commission researched and learned about the Dark Skies Initiative and how it may be relevant and beneficial to our community. Research began in February by attending a Land Use meeting. The Commission organized an online survey for the residents to take part of, advertised through signs, and compiled the results. Work began to research existing ordinances and how to bring smart lighting solutions to our community.

### **Planting at the Mt. Lake Pavilion**

Discussion and research began to deter geese along the pavilion shoreline and reduce erosion near the pavilion. The Environmental Commission reached out to Rutgers Water Resources for assistance in designing a planting plan using natives and low-no maintenance plants to accomplish these beneficial goals.

### **Chemical List for Website**

The Environmental Commission received approval to create a public education chart for the residents in Liberty Twp. Data is still being gathered to post a comprehensive chemical list for the town and provide the SDS sheets for public information.