

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: February 23, 2009

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Kaplowitz, Myers, Nonna, Oros, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane; GUESTS: S. Gerry (CEO); G. D'Agrosa (WCDP); T. Snow (NYSDEC); C. Silver (NYSOAG); M. Meyer (NYCDEP); L. Roberts (Town of Bedford); G. Metz (Parks Dept.); R. Nielsen (MGCSA); S. McKay (Scotts); L. Wilson (NYAFEC); [list of other attendees is on file]

Meeting called to order at 3:20 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Lawn Fertilizer Application and Sale Regulation**

Chair Abinanti commenced discussion by summarizing revisions to the proposed legislation to regulate the application and sale of lawn fertilizers. These revisions include a clarification on applicability of the legislation to biosolids, a new definition for surface waters, a revision of the seasonal prohibition to occur on Dec. 1 rather than Nov. 1, a prohibition to applying fertilizer within twenty feet of surface waters, a revision to include consultation with Westchester County Cornell Cooperative Extension for developing informational materials and a turf management course, and a new provision requiring the County Executive to provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of the statute. In response to query by Leg. Kaplowitz, Ms. Gerry stated that the Administration is in the process of developing materials to be used as a basis for signage at retail stores selling fertilizer as well as to be distributed by professionals.

Chair Abinanti recognized Mr. Snow, NYSDEC, who provided comment supporting the proposed legislation. Mr. Silver, NYSOAG, added that research results demonstrate that most soils in Westchester County have abundant levels of phosphorus. Mr. Metz, Westchester County golf course superintendent, stated that this past season the county golf courses have utilized fertilizer with zero phosphorus content, and no discernable difference in turf quality has been observed.

Upon the motion of Leg. Harckham, seconded by Leg. Myers, the Committee approved the proposed fertilizer legislation (all in favor, but Leg. Kaplowitz and Leg. Nonna 'without prejudice').

Chair Abinanti adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:10 pm.
[audio recording of the meeting is on file]