

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 22, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Fleck, Mrs. Tracey, Mr. Nystrom, Mr. Klimek, Mr. Branagan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Szabo, Mrs. Emmetts, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby

Mrs. Wunder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the statement that this meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Stillwater Township Environmental Commission. Regular meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the Stillwater Township Municipal Building located in Middletown, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Mrs. Tracey was appointed as a Regular member, term expiring 12/31/17. Mrs. Tracey was sworn in by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

Mr. Blanchard was appointed as Alternate #2, term expiring 12/31/16. Mr. Blanchard was not sworn in and could not participate as a Commission member at this meeting.

Reorganization

Chairperson:

Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to elect Mr. Branagan as Chairperson for 2014, seconded by Mrs. Tracey. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Vice Chairperson:

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to elect Mr. Klimek as Vice Chairperson for 2014, seconded by Mrs. Tracey. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Secretary:

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to appoint Mrs. Wunder as the Commission Secretary for 2014, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Meeting Dates/Official Newspaper:

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to approve the following meeting dates and official newspapers for 2014:

Stillwater Township
Environmental Advisory Commission
Schedule of Meeting Dates
2014

The Stillwater Township Environmental Advisory Commission, County of Sussex, New Jersey will hold regular meetings on the second Monday of each month, unless otherwise noted, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 964 Stillwater Road, Middletown, New Jersey.

The dates are as follows:

January 22, 2014 Regular/Reorganization	July 14, 2014
February 10, 2014	August 11, 2014
March 10, 2014	September 8, 2014
April 14, 2014	October 20, 2014 (Third Monday)
May 12, 2014	November 10, 2014
June 9, 2014	December 8, 2014
	January 12, 2015 Reorganization/Regular

The agenda for all meetings, more or less:

1. Call to Order
2. Open Public Meetings Statement
2. Flag Salute
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Bills

6. Public Input
7. Correspondence
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Public Input
11. Planning Board Liaison Report
12. Township Liaison Report
13. Adjournment

The daily New Jersey Herald and Sunday Herald are hereby designated as the official newspapers for legal publication for the Stillwater Township Environmental Advisory Commission.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Minutes: The minutes of 12/9/13 were tabled until a quorum of those in attendance is present to vote.

Bills

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mr. Klimek:

Secretary: \$ 195.00

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:15 p.m. There being no one from the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Correspondence:

NJDEP - 1/17/14 - Grant Opportunity for Public Space Recycling Bins: Following a discussion on the grant opportunity it was agreed that Mr. Branagan would attend the next Recreation Commission (RC) meeting to discuss the grant further and suggest the RC apply for the grant to place a recycling bin at Veteran's Memorial Park. Mr. Branagan noted a bin has been installed at a park in Knowlton and it averages between \$150-\$200 per month in aluminum cans. Mrs. Wunder will forward a memo to Michele Hess, RC Secretary, asking for Mr. Branagan to be placed on their next agenda and including the correspondence from the NJDEP.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby was not present and this item will be added to the next agenda.

PSE&G NJ Small Grants: Resolutions \$2,000/\$10,000

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby completed the \$2,000 grant documentation for an information board at the Recycling Center and funding for Green Team events. Mr. Branagan and Mr. Blanchard worked on the \$10,000 grant application for a Paulinskill Watershed Clean Up project. The municipality background/contact form and the grantee certificate needs to be done and included; and the application proofread. Mrs. Wunder would do so. The resolutions passed by the Township Committee in support of the Green Team and also in support of the grant applications will also be included. Mr. Branagan and Mr. Blanchard walked the Paulinskill River with Nathaniel Sadjak, Eric Van Benschoten and the Wallkill Watershed Ambassador. Several areas were pointed out that need riparian work and other suggestions and information were provided on the project. They felt the project really ties in with their work on the upper portion of the Paulinskill River. Mr. Blanchard felt good about the letters of support included in the grant application and the chances of obtaining it. It was noted permission will be needed for the project along the State land.

Anti-Idling Resolution: Enforcement had been questioned while discussing the resolution in the past. Mr. Branagan spoke to the Zoning Office and she indicated it would not fall under her jurisdiction. The EC agreed the enforcement agencies would be removed from the resolution and it would be forwarded to the Township Committee for consideration.

ERI Revisions – Maps:

Map revisions were emailed to the EC just prior to the meeting tonight. Mr. Klimek was able to review the revisions and make the following comments:

- Updated Open Space Map needs to be included; additional open space properties were provided to the Land Conservancy.
 - Land Use/Land Cover: Roads need to be included.
 - Vernal Habitat: The Wings Adventure property may need to be included. Mrs. Wunder would check the records to see if it was verified.
 - Know Contaminated Sites: It was questioned whether there should be two sites; and also the accuracy of the site depicted on Pompey Lane was questioned. Clarification would be necessary.
 - Soil Series: Roads need to be included.
 - Shale: Clarification on whether or not the shale noted as "Late Wisconsinian Glacial Moraine," should be referred to as "Martin Shale" as in the original ERI.
 - Surficial Aquifer Rankings: Definitions are needed for key letters.
 - Surface Water Quality: Any waters draining into Swartswood Lake should be categorized as C-1.
- The EC agreed with the changes suggested by Mr. Klimek and they would be forwarded to the Land Conservancy.

Tree Ordinance Revision:

The tree ordinance amendment will be introduced by the Township Committee at their meeting held on January 28th. Following review of the proposed ordinance drafted by the Township Attorney, the EC felt the following changes needed to be made prior to introduction:

- Remove all references to the Environmental Commission
- Add silvaculture to Section 382-11(I)

After further review and several concerns with the changes that were made to the ordinance by the Township Attorney, all agreed to request the ordinance be tabled. Ms. Chamings would do so.

Littering Fines/Dumping Definition Ordinance Amendment: The information regarding the changes was forwarded to the Township Committee on January 2nd for consideration.

Recycling Ordinance Revisions Update/ Mixed Rigid Plastic Fees:

Mr. Branagan reported the SCMUA charges 6 cents per pound for mixed rigid plastic. He felt the additional dumpster at the Recycling Center could be used for its collection and the township can charge between 8 and 10 cents to cover costs and transportation. Mr. Klimek noted if the dumpster is not kept covered, water could accumulate causing the weight to increase as well as the costs. Also, locating a dumpster in a safe location for the collection of the mixed rigid plastics would be difficult to do at the Recycling Center. Ms. Chamings felt organization and a layout plan are needed. She and Mr. Branagan agreed to address layout concerns in the spring. Mr. Branagan spoke with Renee Casapulla of the SCMUA and free E-Waste disposal should be available again in March.

Anti-Littering Signs: Mr. Branagan contacted Mr. Hendershot, DPW Supervisor, on 10/1/13 and provided the sign locations for installation. No signs have been installed as of this date. Ms. Chamings contacted Committeeman Scott regarding the matter as he is the DPW liaison. Mrs. Wunder will follow-up with the DPW.

New Business

2013 Annual Report:

Following review of the 2013 Annual Report, the EC agreed to forward the following report to the Township Committee:

Stillwater Township Environmental Commission Annual Report 2013

During the course of 2013, the Stillwater Township Environmental Commission engaged in the following activities:

Met during the course of the year in the Municipal Building and entertained public comment.

Walked properties to evaluate them for the Planning/Zoning Boards.

Prepared an annual budget.

Worked with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey on the acquisition of open space properties.

Worked with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey to update the Open Space Map.

Maintained membership in ANJEC.

Commission members participated in an "Amphibian Crossing" survey and rescue.

Commission participated in Stillwater Day and conducted a community pledge to use the Recycling Center.

Annual Report continued:

Commission members participated in Clean-Up Day.

Worked with the Township to replace "No Littering" signs and determine appropriate locations for their installation.

Drafted an amendment to Chapter 253, Littering ordinance to include dumping/littering and forwarded to the Township Committee for consideration.

Worked on the Commission's certification for Sustainable Jersey.

Worked with the Zoning Officer with regard to the wording of the tree-cutting ordinance; forwarded a proposed amendment to the Township Committee for consideration.

Produced and distributed an Anti-Idling flyer.

Printed and distributed an Open Space brochure and map.

Installed receptacles throughout Stillwater for the collection of used mono-filament fishing line for recycling. Also participated in the emptying of said receptacles.

The Green Team planned and produced a Green Fest event that was held at the Fairview Lake Y Camp. The event was attended by several hundred people and included informational booths and entertainment.

Filed for an ANJEC Open Space Grant.

Recommended the Township continue their partnership with the Land Conservancy, which was denied.

Hosted Nathaniel Sadjak and Eric Van Benschoten who made a presentation on their work on the Paulins Kill River and watershed.

Reviewed the results of the 2012 stream water testing and a comparison was done by Mr. Sadjak using past testing results. Mr. Sadjak felt there were no apparent issues with the results and suggested adding E-Coli to the items being tested.

Reviewed the Township's Recycling Ordinance and signage and made recommendations.

Investigated a local fountain for possible water contamination.

Initiated a discussion with a local landowner regarding barbed wire crossing the Paulins Kill River.

Investigated the possibility of a grant from the N. J. Department of Agriculture for the formation of a municipal orchard.

Accepted the resignation of Susan Ramberg and recommended Ian Blanchard as replacement.

Began a review of the Environmental Resource Inventory and contracted with the Land Conservancy to evaluate what is needed to update same to current standards, ultimately leading to a contract between the Township and the Land Conservancy for an ERI update to be completed.

Reviewed the Township's Solar Ordinance with a view to up-dating.

Hosted a presentation by Randall Solomon, Co-Director of Sustainable Jersey.

Mr. Branagan presented a free environmental program on recycling at the Stillwater School.

The Commission prepared a newsletter for distribution to the Stillwater School, township website and Municipal Building.

Suggested a motion sensor be installed on the pole in the municipal parking lot.

Hosted a presentation from REC Solar to which other boards and commissions were invited.

Currently in the process of reviewing and updating the Recycling Ordinance.

Currently in the process of applying for PSE&G Sustainable Jersey Small Grants - \$2,000 and \$10,000.

Mr. Branagan and Mr. Blanchard met with Nathaniel Sadjak, Eric Van Benschoten and the Walkkill Valley Watershed Ambassador and walked the Paulinskill River identifying areas of concern involving riparian zones to be improved, heavily littered areas and litter dams. All three guests were very impressed and in favor with the application for the \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey Small Grant program to conduct a river clean-up project.

Surveillance Camera – Partridge Road/Old Foundry Road:

The EC discussed an issue of repeated dumping on Old Foundry Road and Partridge Road (off of Possum Hill).

Both areas are located on State land and within close proximity to anti-littering signs. Mr. Branagan removed the debris on Old Foundry Road and disposed of it. He suggested purchasing and installing a surveillance camera to catch the offender(s).

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 9 p.m.

Ian Blanchard, 908 Wall Street expressed concern with the use of a camera and preferred installing a sign indicating a surveillance camera is being used.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 9 p.m.

Mr. Klimek suggested installing a chain across Partridge Road but felt it would penalize those using the property for recreation purposes. He offered to speak to a representative of Whittingham about the dumping issues and the possibility of addressing the matter with the use of cameras or a chain across the road.

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** authorizing Mr. Klimek to contact Bob Olsen at Whittingham regarding securing a surveillance camera at the heavily littered locations, seconded by Mrs. Tracey. All were in favor; none opposed, none abstained.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 9:05 p.m.

Josh Danesi, 939 Route 619 suggested using the surveillance cameras on a case by case basis, temporary surveillance to address a problem as opposed to permanent installation.

Ian Blanchard, 908 Wall Street referred to an oil spill at a house on Route 94 in Fredon and his concerns that it has reached the stream along Paulinskill Lake Road. He noted a strong odor of fuel in the stream. Mr. Blanchard will contact NJDEP to take a sample from the stream. Mr. Blanchard noted the house where the leak took place is bank-owned property, many of which are a hazard to the community. Ms. Chamming asked Mrs. Wunder to contact the Zoning Officer to request a copy of the ordinance from Stanhope that addresses foreclosed properties. Mrs. Tracey will contact Pat Hamilton of Fish and Game with Mr. Blanchard's concerns.

Mr. Blanchard informed the EC he would be away for the next three meetings.

Mr. Blanchard reported he reviewed the fracking resolution passed by Stillwater Township, which is not binding and can be updated to a stricter resolution. He will review the New Brunswick resolution to see if it would be a suitable model to use. He will also research pipeline resolutions to be considered.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 9:15 p.m.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: The December 2013 meeting was cancelled.

-Wings Adventure was granted a 3-year extension on their subdivision approval. Mr. Klimek expressed concern with extensions into the future and the applicant being able to build under outdated regulations.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chamming

- Planning Board ordinance changing GIS fees is being considered.

- The County of Passaic has requested our involvement in an electric energy co-op. The Township Committee will authorize the County of Passaic aggregate to reach out to our residents for their participation.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Tracey. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary