

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 24, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Fleck, Mrs. Tracey, Mr. Szabo, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mr. Danesi, Mrs. Branagan, Mr. Branagan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Emmetts, Mr. Blanchard

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 meeting was scheduled and properly noticed due to the cancellation of the February 9, 2015 reorganization/regular 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 Middleville, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Appointments (as per Ordinance 2015-01 and Resolution 2015-028) :

Mr. Szabo	3-year	12/31/17
Mrs. Emmetts	3-year	12/31/17
Ms. Fobes-Jacoby	3-year	12/31/17
Mrs. Fleck	2 year	12/31/16
Mr. Blanchard	1 year	12/31/16
Mrs. Branagan	Alternate #1	12/31/16
Mr. Danesi	Alternate #2	12/31/15

Reorganization

Chairperson:

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to elect Mr. Branagan as Chairperson for 2015, seconded by Mrs. Tracey. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mrs., Branagan, yes, Mr. Danesi, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, the meeting was turned over to Mr. Branagan.

Vice Chairperson:

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to elect Mr. Szabo as Vice Chairperson for 2015, seconded by Mrs. Tracey. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mrs., Branagan, yes, Mr. Danesi, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Secretary:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to appoint Mrs. Wunder as the Commission Secretary for 2015, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mrs., Branagan, yes, Mr. Danesi, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Meeting Dates/Official Newspaper:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to approve the following meeting dates and official newspapers for 2015:

Stillwater Township
Environmental Advisory Commission
Schedule of Meeting Dates
2015

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

The dates are as follows:

January 12, 2015

February 24, 2015 Reorganization/Regular

March 9, 2015

April 13, 2015

May 11, 2015

June 8, 2015

July 13, 2015

August 10, 2015

September 14, 2015

October 12, 2015

November 9, 2015

December 14, 2015

January 11, 2016 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. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mrs., Branagan, yes, Mr. Danesi, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Minutes

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 1/12/15, as amended adding “Mrs. Emmetts” to those members absent, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, abstain, Mrs. Tracey, abstain, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mrs., Branagan, yes, Mr. Danesi, abstain, Mr. Branagan, yes

Bills

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby:

Secretary: \$ 198.90

ANJEC EC Course – C. Tracey \$ 35.00

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mrs., Branagan, yes, Mr. Danesi, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:19 p.m. There being no one from the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:19 p.m.

Correspondence:

-Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions - ANJEC’s Basic Training – 3/7, 3/21, 3/28 – emailed to EC 1/28/15

-NJDEP Application Notification – PS&S, JCP&L, multi-permit application – emailed to EC 2/11/15. Mrs. Wunder will notify the EC once the complete application is available at the Municipal Building for review.

-Land Conservancy – 129-acre Stonebridge farm located in both Warren (Frelinghuysen) and Sussex (Stillwater) County – entered into farmland preservation.

Mr. Branagan reported he had emailed Mr. Blanchard who is doing well and looking forward to proceeding with the Paulinskill River Clean Up.

Mr. Branagan welcomed new member Josh Danesi to the EC.

Old Business

Stream Water Testing: Nathaniel Sajdak reviewed the water testing results in comparison to past results and he had no concerns.

Mr. Sajdak is available to work in the riparian zone to install whips and tubes to protect the trees along the Paulinskill River.

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the Green Team is still meeting and moving forward.

Paulinskill River Clean Up: No report at this time.

Recycling Ordinance Revisions Update: This item is on hold pending the updating of the County ordinance to be used as a model.

Mixed Rigid Plastics Disposal: Mr. Branagan addressed the Township Committee and it appears they are not interested in pursuing mixed rigid plastics (MRP) disposal. Mrs. Branagan felt the Committee was concerned with purchasing a new container and also water accumulating in it. Mr. Branagan stated it would not be necessary to purchase a container as cement blocks could be used to enclose a disposal area and when a container is available the items could be transferred. No water would be able to accumulate in the open area. Another concern of the TC was the additional responsibility for the DPW. Ms. Chamming has suggested providing additional hours for the recycling workers weekly to allow them time to organize and clean up the center and to be available to address such items as MRP disposal. The EC will continue to address the issue with the Township Committee and the item will remain on the agenda.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP) Recycling Receptacle: Mr. Branagan will contact Mr. Fisher regarding the shed location at VMP and also mixed rigid plastics disposal. Ms. Chamming and Mr. Branagan will also visit VMP to determine the best location.

ERI Update: Threatened and Endangered Flora and Fauna – Land Conservancy/NJDEP

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** authorizing the NJDEP, Office of Natural Lands Management, to update the ERI for threatened and endangered species (flora/fauna) in Stillwater at \$70/hour, with an estimate of 4 hours, seconded by Mr. Branagan. It was noted the cost may exceed \$500 slightly depending on the amount of time it will take to provide the updated information; all agreed.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mrs., Branagan, yes, Mr. Danesi, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

New Business

Endangered and Threatened Species Sightings: There were several bald eagle sightings and a possible fisher cat sighting.

Sussex County Solar Project: Mr. Szabo reported on the County wide settlement regarding the solar project for schools and municipalities. Sussex County joined with Somerset and Morris counties and 24 projects were partially completed when the funding ran out. It has been a long process coming to a settlement which has caused public friction. The next County Freeholder Meeting will be on 2/25/15.

Paradise Fishing Club Ice Fishing Contest Report: Mr. Szabo briefly reviewed the report on the fish caught, type, weight, etc. and the report is available for those interested.

Global Cooling Article: Mr. Szabo provided an article from International Science Times entitled, "Global Cooling: Arctic Ice Cap Grows 60 Percent in one year. The article included a NASA photo providing images from 2012 compared to 2013.

No public was present at the meeting.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report:

Ms. Chammings reported:

-An application for a farm on Hardwick Road requesting approval for a 144,400 square foot barn was deemed incomplete. The Planning Board asked for a long term plan for the farm as the applicant has been before the Board for several items. The Planning Board will also see if the applicant is pursuing or has an agricultural plan. This can be done through the Rutgers Extension.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings

-Joe Sugar was appointed as the Deputy Office of Emergency Management Coordinator.

-A lengthy discussion was held on the fire departments; audits and by-laws to be submitted by each department, including the Rescue Squad.

-Appointment of Glenn Gavan as the judge for the joint court was questioned and Stillwater has no input. Mr. Szabo reported there were ethical questions concerning the judge's past as Chairman of the Sussex County Community College Board. He felt Stillwater should have been part of the hiring process as they are paying for the court. Ms. Chammings noted she brought her concerns to the Township Committee prior to Mr. Szabo doing so, however it was an executive session discussion.

-Open Space Trust Fund was discussed. Ms. Chammings noted the issue has to be on a referendum this year and she referred to an article about the Morris County Freeholders reviewing different ways they can use the open space funding and including public input. Mrs. Wunder will email the article to the EC for their review. Ms. Chammings recommended the EC stay informed of the referendum and its wording and she felt it would be advantageous to form an Open Space Committee, which she will address with the Township Committee.

-County Open Space Meeting – Cliff Lundin is in charge of the \$1,500 open space grants, which Ms. Chammings is pursuing for Stillwater.

-Recycling tonnage grants are being filed.

-Town Hall renovation is going out to bid.

-Rescue Squad installation dinner was held on 2/21/15 and an ambulance was dedicated to Bill Martin.

-Budget review has been ongoing, residents should see an average decrease of \$50.

The March 9, 2015 EC meeting is cancelled and the next meeting will be held on April 13, 2015.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Branagan. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary