

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 8, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Klimek, Mrs. Emmetts, Ms. Ramberg, Mrs. Tracey, Mr. Szabo, Mr. Nystrom, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mr. Branagan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Fleck

Mr. Branagan arrived at 7:12 p.m.; Ms. Ramberg arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Klimek 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.

Minutes

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 2/11/13 as amended, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, abstain, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes.

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 3/11/13, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, abstain, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Branagan.

Bills

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

Secretary: \$180.25

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes. Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:14 p.m.

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road spoke of his recent illness and its relation to research indicating in the west and China that it is caused by a chemical used in plating/jewelry making.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:07 p.m.

Correspondence:

Northern New Jersey Green Event – Sparta Middle School, 4/16/13, 5-8 p.m. – Ms. Fobes-Jacoby and Mr. Nystrom will attend.

NJDEP Notice: Block 2501, Lot 21.01, application for General Permit No. 25 – Mr. Branagan, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, and Mr. Nystrom will inspect the property.

Old Business

ANJEC: Open Space Grants:

Mr. Szabo will complete the grant application as discussed at the March meeting. The application must be filed by April 19th. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby offered her assistance.

Sustainable Jersey:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the Green Team met on 4/3/13 and is working on a Green Fair event. Fairview Lake Camp has offered its facilities and the schools will be invited to participate. The EC will have a booth and there will be other information exhibits. Mrs. Emmetts suggested contacting the North RC&D for green fair items. Other suggestions included the exhibit trunk from Soil Conservation; NJDEP, bat and amphibian crossing information. Mrs. Emmetts agreed to work on the Environmental Commission portion of the actions for Sustainable Jersey certification, Dana Mooney, CFO, has joined the Green Team, and the team will participate in Clean Up Day.

Municipal Orchard Update: Ian Blanchard

Mr. Blanchard was not present and this item will be added to the next agenda.

No Littering Signs:

Mr. Branagan reported the following:

The signs will be 18” x 12” and will read as follows:

No Littering
\$1,000 Fine
Ord. No. _____

25 signs @ \$15.58 each = \$389.50

15 posts (8’ w/ hardware) @ \$22.74 ea. = \$341.10

Nuts/bolts = \$15.00

Total cost for signs: \$745.00

Silver reflective signs w/ green lettering; locations to be determined; funding through Clean Communities Grant; DPW to install the signs.

The County Administrator indicated the signs could not be posted on existing County sign posts. Mr. Branagan will have Econo Signs fax a quote to Mrs. Wunder to discuss with Ms. Mooney, CFO.

Tree Cutting Ordinance:

The EC discussed exemption of farmland assessed property. Mr. Branagan indicated the Zoning Officer was not in favor of doing so.

Following further discussion, the EC agreed to add farmland assessment as an exemption. Mr. Branagan will discuss the penalty/fine for the tree ordinance amendment with the Zoning Officer.

Water Testing Results:

The stream water test results comparison to prior years was emailed to the EC for their review. Mr. Szabo would provide a copy to Mr. Sadjak for his input. Mr. Sadjak will be a guest speaker at the EC meeting to be held on May 13th.

Anti-Idling Flyer:

Mr. Branagan reviewed the flyer and Sustainable Jersey action requirements, noting the following:

-An anti-idling resolution must be passed by the Township Committee

-Signs must be posted at priority anti-idling locations

-Educational materials must be produced and distributed to the community

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby will contact Warren County for authorization to use their anti-idling flyer with adjustments as needed for Stillwater Township.

Amphibian Crossing Study:

Mr. Branagan reported the following results for the amphibian crossing survey held on Route 619 (entrance to Swartswood State Park):

Spotted Salamanders: 23, 3^, DOR 2

Wood Frogs: 485, 7^, DOR 35

Spring Peepers: 247, 9^, DOR 52

American Toads: 3, DOR 1

Jefferson Salamanders: 48, 26^, DOR 2

Red-Spotted Newts: 8, DOR 1

Fishing Line Receptacles:

The fishing line will be picked up during the first week of each month and brought to the monthly EC meeting from the following sites:

Mr. Klimek:

#1 Entrance to North Shore House on the right side of the road next to the stream.

#2 Boat House parking lot next to trout tag box on shoreline.

#4 Veteran’s Park, next to trout tag box just before pedestrian bridge.

#5 Veteran’s Park upper parking lot attached to recycling poster.

Mrs. Emmetts:

#3 Swartswood State Park boat launch just south of 619 park entrance – receptacle attached to bulletin board just right of launch area.

#12 Swartswood Lake, Mill Pond on State Park bulletin board.

Mr. Szabo:

#6 Private home of Ed Connor located on large pine tree next to fire pit along river.

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby:

#7 Saddleback Road just west of the larger bridge on post leading to the river and field.

Mrs. Tracey:

#11 Hendershot's boat launch attached to post with trout tagging box next to shed.

Mr. Branagan:

#8 Route 610 between LC Service and the bridge crossing the river on the right side pullover.

#9 Just after the bridge across from the Grist Mill at the entrance to the small lost and river.

#10 Hendershot's boat launch attached to the post with the trout tagging box next to the shed.

New Business

Solar Ordinance Review: A subcommittee was formed by the Planning Board to develop a solar ordinance. Sample ordinances will be distributed by Mr. Branagan to EC members for their review and input.

Lyme Disease Information: Mr. Klimek was contacted by Marty Theys, an advocate for Lyme Disease, who has offered to provide a presentation at a future EC meeting. Mr. Klimek suggested placing a sign at Veteran's Memorial Park depicting a tick and including information.

Route 521 – (2) 55 gallon drums (across from the Boathouse Restaurant):

A memo was provided by Mike Metzger, Sussex County Public Works regarding the drums, which he reported to the Department of Environmental Health Services. The matter will be referred to the Zoning Officer for inspection and follow-up.

Resignation: Ms. Ramberg informed the EC that she will be submitting her resignation in the near future as she is moving. The EC thanked her for her service.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:36 p.m.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:36 p.m.

Planning Board Liaison Report:

Mr. Branagan reported the following:

-A subcommittee was formed to review solar ordinances.

-Discussion was held on an amendment to accessory structures.

-Mr. Branagan inquired if any PB members were interested in joining the Green Team.

-Maps were submitted to the PB for Fairview Lake Camps – Minisink Lodge rebuild

Township Liaison Report:

Ms. Chamblings reported the following:

-Ms. Chamblings and Mr. Donofrio inspected the Fairview Lake Camp property with respect to the rebuild of Minisink Lodge, noting a rain garden would address run-off.

-The Green Team resolution was passed on 3/19/13 and a letter was received from Art Ondish, re: Sustainable Jersey.

-Budget hearing – 4/16/13

-Ms. Chamblings discussed the proposal of having the Land Conservancy review or possibly update the ERI. The Land Conservancy information will be emailed to the EC for their review.

-NJLOM magazine article on EC in Cranford, NJ

Ms. Chamblings commended the EC on their work as a tremendous asset to the township.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Next Meeting: May 13, 2013