

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 13, 2015**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Blanchard

Mr. Branagan 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. 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.

Minutes

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 2/24/15, as amended, seconded by Mr. Branagan.

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

Bills

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

Secretary: \$198.90

Land Conservancy – ERI Update - \$250.00

NJDEP Office of Natural Lands Management – ERI Update - \$70.00

NJH – Notices - \$8.10

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

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:13 p.m. There being no one from the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:13 p.m.

Correspondence:

Ocean Conservancy – Ocean Action News – Plastic Pollution in the Ocean – emailed to EC 3/5/15

NJDEP – Accepting Applications for Recreational Trail Grants – emailed to EC 3/6/15

Amphibian Crossing – New Jersey Herald article “On These Wet Spring Nights, Watch Out for Crawling Critters” – Amphibian Awareness Month: Road Closures for Salamander Crossing – Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ – emailed to EC 3/23/15

National Trails Day – Saturday, June 6th – emailed to EC 3/24/15

Ed Szabo – Memo, re: John J. Donahue, Superintendent of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area – Parks Vision 2030, emailed to EC 3/24/15: Mr. Szabo received a response to his letter to Mr. Donahue thanking him for his input and encouraging his future involvement.

Sussex County Soil Conservation District Vacancy – deadline to apply April 24th – emailed to EC 3/30/15

National Parks Conservation Association – April 22, 2015 Report and Discussion, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Perona Farms, deadline to register April 16th – emailed to EC 4/7/15

Sussex County Open Space Committee Open House Invitation – April 23, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. – emailed to 4/8/15:

Ms. Chamming encouraged EC members to attend and to complete the municipal survey included with the invitation. Mr. and Mrs. Branagan and Mr. Szabo will attend the open house. The EC reviewed and completed the 2015 Municipal Survey, including a lengthy discussion when determining the answers to the questions on the survey. The EC agreed the Stillwater Open Space Map and the County Open Space Map needed to be provided and compared as there are several differences. *See attached municipal survey

ANJEC Seminar 3/28/15: Ms. Tracey attended the ANJEC workshop, recommending it to all members. She noted that Stillwater is far ahead of many municipalities with respect to the ERI, Green Team, brochures, etc.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update: No report at this time.

Paulinskill River Clean Up: Mr. Blanchard is expected back in May and another cleanup will take place at that 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: No report at this time.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP) Recycling Receptacle: Ms. Chammings suggested moving it to VMP. EC members will meet at Clean Up Day on 4/25 at the Recycling Center at 1 p.m. to determine what needs to be done to the shed. The Recreation Commission members will be present at Clean Up Day and a location can be determined at that time.

ERI Update: Threatened and Endangered Flora and Fauna – Land Conservancy/NJDEP
The ERI update has been completed and the document is being merged by the Land Conservancy.

Free Tree Seedlings: The DPW will pick up the tree seedlings on 4/17 at the Sussex County Soil Conservation District and the Green Team and Recreation Commission will distribute at Clean Up Day.

Recycling Center: A DPW/Recycling Center position has been advertised, 20 hours per week, six hours on Saturday/Sunday to oversee the Recycling Center, with the balance of the hours used to assist the DPW on Mondays; must have CDL license. The new hire will help to make sure appropriate disposal is being done and the center is organized; additional seasonal hours may be available for snow removal and tree trimming.

New Business

Amphibian Crossing: Three Survey Nights
*See attached report.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: The March 2015 meeting was cancelled.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings
-PAC meeting: Stillwater is the most rural area in Sussex County with the exception of Walpack. Septic availability allows for 1,037 additional units to be constructed.
-The Township Committee authorized the Township Attorney to pursue the grandfathering of our COAH plan.
-The 2015 budget was introduced and the public hearing for adoption is 4/21/15. Taxes will decrease somewhat.
-PSE&G contributions paid for items that would have normally been funded by taxpayers.
-Corrective Action Plan: 1. Delineation of job duties.
2. Tax liens
3. Detailed list of fixed assets is needed

Ms. Chammings commended the employees at town hall, the auditors and the township attorney.

Foreclosed Properties: In response to questioning by Mrs. Fleck regarding issues with foreclosed properties, the EC indicated all issues should be directed to the Zoning Officer to enforce the ordinances in place.

Site Survey: Zoning Board – Durkos, Block 3601, Lot 11 – cabin to be demolished and reconstructed.
Mr. Branagan and Mr. Szabo will conduct the site survey.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP): Ms. Chamming asked the EC to list their goals for passive recreation at VMP for the next meeting.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Branagan. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary