

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 13, 2013**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Mr. Branagan arrived at 7:07 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 4/8/13, seconded by Mr. Szabo.

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

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

Bills

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to approve the following bill, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mrs. Tracey:

Secretary: \$ 195.00

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

Presentation: Nathaniel Sajdak, Watershed Director

Eric VanBenschoten, Agricultural Outreach Specialist

Mr. Sajdak introduced himself and provided a background on the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group (WRWMG). The SCMUA serves as the administrative umbrella and planning agency for the watershed. The WRWMG is responsible for the following:

- Raises watershed awareness and promotes environmental stewardship
- Generates stakeholder participation in watershed initiatives
- Conducts water quality monitoring of local watershed surface waters
- Drive efforts for potential "on the ground" watershed restoration projects
- Serves as a watershed management and water quality liaison for the public residents, municipal officials and county government organizations

Mr. Sajdak provided an overview of the Upper Paulins Kill Restoration Plan – Volume I. The management group has worked to develop a plan for the Upper Paulins Kill that offers comprehensive strategies, identifies numerous specific projects, watershed tasks, and implementation themes, which when implemented will serve to reduce the annual pollutant loads and restore the water quality. The plan has been finalized and is starting to be initiated. Mr. Szabo questioned when this area of the Paulins Kill would be addressed. Mr. Sajdak recognized that restoration and assessment needs to be done in this area, especially due to the flooding issues.

Mr. Sajdak provided an overview on the Riparian Restoration Project for the Upper Paulinskill Watershed including Ideal Farms and Chatterbox property (Decker Road corridor). There were 1500 trees and shrubs and 1500 live stakes planted along the corridor with a 90-95 percent survival rate for one growing season. Mr. Van Benschoten briefly described the process for outreach to property owners.

Mr. Sajdak reviewed the stream water samples provided by the Environmental Commission. He saw no problems or coliform/phosphorus issues, indicating no problem with water quality. He was impressed with the data and time period over which water sampling has been done by the EC. He felt it was very valuable data and would definitely be a reference he would use, commending the EC. He noted the State has added E Coli for their water quality standard and suggested the EC do the same.

The presentation concluded and the EC thanked Mr. Sajdak and Mr. VanBenschoten for their time.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7: 57 p.m.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:57 p.m.

Correspondence:

Resignation: Susan Ramberg – Regular Member - Acceptance
2013 Budget
Financial Disclosure Statements

Member Appointment Recommendation:

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to recommend the Mayor/Township Committee make the following appointments, seconded by Mr. Szabo:

Michael Nystrom – Regular Member – term expiration 12/31/14 (from Alternate #1 position)

Kathy Fobes-Jacoby – Alternate #1 – term expiration 12/31/14 (from Alternate #2 position)

Ian Blanchard – Alternate #2 – term expiration 12/31/13 (new appointment)

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

Old Business

ERI: Land Conservancy:

Mr. Branagan contacted David Kunz, GIS Coordinator, who will talk to Eric Snyder, County Planner, to see if the County can offer any help with the updating of the ERI and if so, what the fee would be. Mr. Fobes-Jacoby reported that she and Mr. Nystrom have reviewed the ERI and there are still some items missing that need to be included in order to obtain points from Sustainable Jersey. She noted some of the missing items were included in the prior ERI by Mr. Feenstra and may be used toward certification.

The Land Conservancy offer for reviewing the ERI would be considered pending the outcome from the County. Mr. Szabo recommended including a timeline for completion in any contract or agreement for updating the ERI.

Sustainable Jersey:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mr. Nystrom and Mr. Lifschultz (YMCA) attended the Northern NJ Sustainable Resources and Networking Forum held on April 16th at Sparta Middle School. There were many booths and exhibits, including energy efficiency, recycling e-waste, networking opportunities, a formal presentation, and faith-based alignments for such items as solar power, both for church and congregation.

The Green Team met on 5/1/13 and the GreenFest is scheduled for 8/18/13 at the YMCA Camp from 1-4 p.m. They are seeking sponsors and volunteers, and the event will have a budget of approximately \$1,800. The Green Team participated in Clean Up Day and received \$200, and they will ask the CFO to create a line item in the budget for those funds.

Mr. Klimek reported that 22 tires were dumped off of Partridge Road by a township road and Fish and Wildlife property.

Municipal Orchard Update: Ian Blanchard

Mr. Blanchard had no update at this time.

No Littering Signs:

Discussion was held on the content of the signs and the amount of the fines/penalties to be assessed, imposed by ordinance. Following the discussion, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** recommending the signs to read as follows, seconded by Mrs. Tracey:

Stillwater Township
Littering/Dumping
Fine
Up to \$2,000
Ord. # _____

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

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to recommend the following fine/penalty for littering/dumping, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts, to be forwarded to the Township Committee for their review.

- 1st Offense: \$ 500
- 2nd Offense: \$1,000
- 3rd Offense: \$2,000/imprisonment or both

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, no, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Tree Cutting Ordinance:

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to forward the following amendment to the Planning for their review, seconded by Mr. Klimek:

TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE

The Stillwater Township Environmental Commission recommends the following addition to our tree cutting ordinance:

Clear cutting woodlands is non-permissible in Stillwater Township unless the property owner is farmland assessed or has a Woodland Management Plan that is to be overseen by a New Jersey State qualified/approved Woodland Forester. A plan must be submitted to the Stillwater Township Environmental Commission and the Zoning Officer for inspection prior to the cutting or removal of any trees to be clear cut. The removal of dead or diseased trees is permissible without a permit.

Homeowners and landowners of Stillwater Township that do not have a Woodland Management Plan or farmland assessment may not cut more than 10 percent of the trees on any given acre during one calendar year without an approved tree cutting permit from the Zoning Department. To obtain a tree cutting permit applicants are required to submit a completed application (\$30.00 permit fee) and a copy of the property survey locating the area where the trees are to be removed.

Before a permit is issued, a member(s) of the Environmental Commission and Zoning Officer will inspect the property and trees to be cut. There will be a 20-day limit for the Environmental Commission or Zoning Officer to inspect the property. Trees to be cut should be marked with a ribbon, paint or other identifying material. Once a recommendation by the Environmental Commission or Zoning Officer has been completed, the permit including the number of trees to be cut will be issued.

The removal of dead and/or diseased trees or a tree or trees which pose a threat to an individual, individual's home or an accessory building, may be removed without a permit.

A permit is also required on any property without a Woodland Management Plan or farmland assessment with slopes of 15% or more, as well as trees located in riparian zones, wetlands, vernal pools or properties in which there are threatened or endangered species.

Violation of this ordinance in the Township of Stillwater will result in a maximum penalty of \$25.00 per tree exceeding the Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of 4 inches at 4.5 feet.

Riparian zone consists of fairly narrow strips of land bordering creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water.

Vernal pool- is a seasonal body of standing water that typically forms in the spring from melting snow and other runoff and dries out completely in the hotter months. Vernal pools are essential habitats for amphibians to reproduce.

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

Anti-Idling Flyer:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby contacted Warren Township for permission to use their anti-idling flyer for Stillwater. Warren questioned whether or not it would be used verbatim. The EC would review the flyer and determine at the next meeting if there will be any changes. The EC briefly discussed concerns with township owned vehicles idling for an extended period of time.

Fishing Line Receptacles:

Fishing line was collected from 12 sites by EC members. Mr. Klimek noted the fishing line receptacle at VMP was being used for garbage and he asked that the trash receptacle at the park be moved closer to the fishing receptacle to prevent this from happening.

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

No report at this time, Zoning Officer to follow up and inspect.

Solar Ordinance Review:

Following EC member review of sample solar ordinances, Mr. Klimek recommended Galloway Township, with a few changes. Items to review would include placement in the front yard, sun glare, 3-way screening, and commercial property. He noted installation should not be permitted on farmland preserved property. Mr. Szabo felt the sample ordinance from Lancaster was too technical with unnecessary details. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby felt the sample from Minnesota

was informative with such items as roof mount tilts and sight lines, although it was geared more for urban and industrial areas.

New Business

Recycling Receptacles:

Following discussion, Ms. Chammings would contact Mr. Hendershot, DPW regarding providing recycling receptacles at VMP. She would ask him to visit the park to see if there is an issue as a complaint was made regarding recyclable containers strewn about.

Zoning Board Site Survey: Block 1703, Lot 2.01, Tanis

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to accept the site survey for Tanis, Block 1703, Lot 2.01, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

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

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 9:20 p.m.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 9:20 p.m.

Planning Board Liaison Report:

Mr. Branagan reported the following from the Planning Board meeting held on 4/17/13:

- The PB reviewed the Fairview Lake Camps Minisink Lodge application.
- Ms. Fobes-Jacoby attended and encouraged PB participation on the Green Team.

Township Liaison Report:

Ms. Chammings reported the following:

- The Land Conservancy review of the ERI will be on hold until Eric Snyder, County Planner, responds to EC.
- Nathaniel Sajdak will be guest speaker at the PAC meeting to be held on 7/11/13.
- Food to Water presentation to be held at PAC meeting on 6/13/13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Freeholders Room.
- Fairview Lake Camp Minisink Lodge – NJ Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit
- Clean Up around town – Main Street – abandoned car and garbage removed
- Farmland Preservation presentations will begin in June
- Clean Communities Grant: \$13,900
- North Shore House Campground received their annual campground license
- Middleville Road, Phase II – will begin in near future
- Relay for Life will be held at SCCC on 5/18/13, 4-6 p.m.
- Stillwater Day – 6/15/13
- Garage Sale Day – 7/20/13
- Town Hall renovations moving forward, RFP is being written
- EcolSciences – PSE&G – level of lead in one of the towers was excessive, soil will be remediated, excavated and removed, Tower #44-5

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Emmetts. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Next Meeting: June 10, 2013