

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**June 11, 2012**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Klimek, Mrs. Emmetts

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. 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**

Ms. Ramberg made a **motion** to approve the minutes of May 14, 2012, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Fleck.

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

**Bills**

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

Secretary: \$ 180.25

Quill – Colored paper for newsletter \$42.00

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

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:12 p.m.**

**Ian Blanchard, Stillwater resident** discussed a proposal to develop a municipal orchard. He has worked on several environmental projects and would like to plant perennial fruits, nuts, berries, and vine fruits, incorporating both dwarf stock and large root stock. Tree turn-around times would vary between 5-10 years, 7-8 years and 3-5 years. Mr. Nystrom expressed concern with cedar rust and bear issues. Mr. Blanchard indicated grant funding may be applied for fencing; and addressing such issues as cedar rust would be part of the overall plan. Developing the orchard would involve forming a board of trustees, searching for property, and determining public interest and expenses. It would be a long-term reward for the community, and there would be long-term goals incorporating education such as activities involving children planting trees on Arbor Day. Mr. Branagan felt public interest should be the first item to be addressed, and he asked if it would be possible to get such a question on the public ballot. Ms. Chamings indicated approval would be necessary from the Township Committee to do so. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby agreed to work with Mr. Blanchard to develop a survey to determine public interest in a municipal orchard, to be conducted during Stillwater Day along with the survey for Sustainable Jersey. Mr. Blanchard briefly discussed liability issues which he felt would be minimal and he would also check on the required zoning regulations for the proposal. Mr. Branagan distributed information on the Hardyston Municipal Garden, which he noted requires each participant to donate at least six hours of service time in the garden.

**There being no public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:31 p.m.**

**Correspondence:**

Budget Report through 5/24/12

**Old Business**

**Trails:** No report. This item will be added to the next agenda.

**No Littering Signs/No Idling Signs:** The DPW has not yet conducted the requested survey on the township “no littering” signs. Mr. Branagan offered to do so and will report at the next meeting. There has also been no response from the Committee regarding changing the ordinance notation on the signs, and it was still questionable as to whether or not the signs could be funded through the Clean Communities grant. Mr. Branagan reported that he had been in contact with the art teacher at Stillwater School and the “no idling” poster contest will be run during the July summer classes. Mr. Branagan will provide a presentation on the issue to the students prior to having them draw the posters.

**Tree Cutting Ordinance:** Mr. Branagan would contact the Zoning Officer to discuss specific wording of the ordinance amendment to help with enforcement issues.

**Sustainable Jersey Update:** Mr. Blanchard spoke on community supported agriculture and informed the Commission that James Grenewicz on Potters Road will be offering such for \$25 per week or \$400 from July to October, a total of 16 weeks. There are options available for low income individuals and pick up for the produce items would be once a week. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby added the Mr. Grenewicz is very interested in pursuing educational opportunities for the community. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported she spoke to Randall Solomon about her concerns with being close to obtaining certification and then not meeting the requirements. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby also spoke with Mr. Solomon with respect to the PSE&G grant and he indicated many municipalities are applying for grant funding to purchase a composter and the EC may want to take that into consideration. Mr. Branagan reported he has spoken with Mrs. Memmelaar at the school and she indicated there are environmentally-minded individuals serving on the Board of Education at this time who may be interested in the composter. The EC agreed that specific pricing information was needed for the Rocket Composter.

**PSE&G - Discussion:** Mr. Branagan reported that Hopatcong received \$650,000 to replace trees and mitigation issues as a result of the PSE&G project.

Mr. Branagan discussed correspondence from Ms. Chamblings, re: lead paint violation in the area of one of the PSE&G towers. Ms. Chamblings believed it should be followed up on. Mr. Szabo questioned if the violation was directly from the tower or other source such as the tower cable. Ms. Chamblings requested that an EC member be present when the tower is tested again. She will contact Ecol-Science to inquire when that will be.

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby provided a copy of the response to Mr. Szabo's 14 questions on Sustainable Jersey to the EC. The item will be reviewed and added to the next agenda.

### **New Business**

**Zoning Board of Adjustment:** Site Survey Form Acceptance

Morris, Block 416, Lot 26, Cal. No. 574 – Deck

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to accept the site survey, seconded by Mrs. Fleck.

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

Hollinger, Block 3304, Lot 3, Cal. No. 575 – Change of Use (Cabinet Shop)

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to accept the site survey, seconded by Ms. Ramberg.

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

Howe, Block 2601, Lot 3, Cal. No. 576 – Shed

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to accept the site survey, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

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

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:58 p.m.**

**There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:58 p.m.**

### **Planning Board Liaison Report:**

Mr. Branagan reported the May Planning Board meeting was cancelled.

### **Township Liaison Report:** Committeewoman Chamblings

**Ms. Chamblings reported the following:**

-Ms. Chamblings spoke with the CFO who confirmed the “no littering” signs can be funded through the Clean Communities grant; a requisition would be necessary prior to purchase, including the number of signs.

-Ms. Chamblings will contact Mr. Klimek, re: updates or revisions needed with respect to the Open Space Map and Open Space Brochure. She would like the project completed in a timely manner.

-Preliminary approval for the farmland preservation of the Syberg Farm was denied by a vote of 3-1-1, with Ms. Chamblings voting in favor and Mayor Scott abstaining, and the remaining Committee members opposing it. The Township Committee felt there is not a need to preserve farmland at time as there is a large amount of open space in the municipality.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Ramberg made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Tracey. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Wunder, Secretary

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Jack Branagan, Chairperson