

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 Middletown, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Minutes

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 6/8/15, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts.

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

Bills

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

Secretary: \$202.88

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

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:13 p.m.

Mrs. Emmetts stepped down from the Commission to speak as the President of the Swartswood Lakes and Watershed Association with respect to correspondence sent to the NJDEP from the association. She provided a copy of a cover letter and attached report to the EC. She spoke of the disconnect between the Office of Natural Lands Management and the association and the deviations from the implementation of the lake management program, putting the restoration and future water quality of the lake in jeopardy. She asked for EC support for the letter that was sent from the association to Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP regarding the Swartswood Lake Management program, its proper implementation and corrective action for its successful continuance. The letter was copied to: Governor Christie, Lt. Governor Guadagno, Sen. Oroho, Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblyman Space, Sussex County Freeholders, Stillwater Township, Hampton Township and the NJ Coalition of Lakes Association.

Four points of importance in the attached report are as follows:

- Aligning all within NJDEP with the Swartswood Lake management program
- Designation of a functioning NJDEP Lake Management advocate, or champion
- Restoration of a transparency partnership
- Development of credible data and interpretation, and coordinated decision making

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to draft a letter to Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP, copied to other parties as listed, in support of the letter dated June 18, 2015 sent to him by the Swartswood Lakes & Watershed Association with respect to the proper implementation of the lake management program and corrective action for its continuance, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

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

There being no one from the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:49 p.m. Mrs. Emmetts rejoined the Board at this time.

Correspondence:

DEP News Release: Announcement of Approval of \$102.3 Million for Green Acres Open Space and Recreation Projects – Emailed to EC 6/22/15

SC Office of Conservation and Farmland Preservation: 2015 Sussex County Open Space Application Round – Emailed to EC 6/19/15

Chestnut Restoration and Ceremonial Planting of the First Two Blight Resistant American Chestnut Trees – Fairview Lake YMCA, June 14, 2015

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby attended the ceremony and reported on the event.

Correspondence from Water Quality Advisory Committee (PAC): Mr. Blanchard provided information he received in his PAC packet regarding improving the management of stormwater runoff. Three important actions were noted:

- Improve management of stormwater runoff
- Protect water supplies through planning and enforcement
- Reduce and eliminate combined sewer overflows

The information will be emailed to the EC.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Update: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the Green Team is still working on obtaining points on various items.

Paulinskill River Clean Up: Mr. Blanchard reported there is \$7,600 remaining in the grant. He will be meeting with Nathaniel Sajdak to discuss tree plantings. There is \$320 in grant funding set aside for informational pamphlets. Filming on the river to compose a video for upcoming presentations is being done.

Veteran's Memorial Park – Recycling Shed:

Mr. Branagan will reposition wood on one door and frame the disposal openings. The shed is working out well and proper disposal is being done with no trash mixed in. Mr. Branagan thanked the following individuals for their assistance with the shed:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mr. Szabo, Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Danesi, Mrs. Tracey, Ms. Chamblings, and Mrs. Branagan. Ms. Chamblings has received several compliments on the shed and it is attractive at the entrance to the park.

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

Mr. Branagan attended a Township Committee meeting and brought to their attention a number of Recycling Center issues. The Committee agreed to address his concerns. The issues included mixed rigid plastic disposal; proper signage display and improper disposal of recyclables. The Committee discussed the possibility of hiring an additional employee for the Recycling Center. Ms. Chamblings noted the road to the center would be addressed and new cashier has been hired. The Committee will conduct a review to see if the center is making or losing money.

Fishing Line Receptacles: Collection was provided. Two new receptacles are to be painted and installed at the following locations: 1) Across from LC Service; 2) Upper parking lot at Veteran's Memorial Park.

New Business

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP): Dead Tree

Ms. Chamblings reported the DPW is addressing this matter.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP): Passive Recreation Goals

A date to walk the trail to determine what is needed is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 7/17/15 at 5:30 p.m. for those interested.

Site Survey Report: Zoning Board

Rivara, Block 801, Lot 10 – Rear covered deck

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to accept the site survey, seconded by Mr. Branagan.

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

Mr. Branagan would like to have different members of the EC conduct site inspections on a rotating basis by alphabetical order. Mrs. Branagan asked for the EC to review a site survey form so members know what they are looking for when conducting an inspection. This item will be added to the next agenda.

Threatened and Endangered Species Sightings:

The following sightings were reported:

- Timber rattlesnake – Old Schoolhouse Road
- Box turtle – along Flatbrook River

Other sightings included:

- Snapping turtle on Route 206
 - Black coyote in Stillwater/Hardwick area
 - Fisher cat in Stillwater near Fairview Lake Road area
 - Pileated Woodpecker
 - Spotted salamander
- Mr. Blanchard reported a tremendous bloom of mushrooms, up to 300 species.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chamblings
The June PB meeting was cancelled.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chamblings

- Bond ordinance was approved.
- An ordinance for the maintenance of vacant and abandoned properties was introduced. It is very extensive, and those interested should review it prior to the public hearing.
- The lot line adjustment and use ordinances were adopted.
- A lengthy discussion was held on the Recycling Center.
- Shuler acquisition (Hardwick/Stillwater) four years ago – Stillwater agreed with the Nature Conservancy to apply for a grant to offset some of the costs.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Wunder, Secretary