

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 14, 2014**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Klimek

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 Middleville, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Mr. Blanchard arrived at 7:11 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 6/9/14, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts.

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

Bills

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

Secretary: \$ 198.90

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

Correspondence:

CFO - Budget through 6/12/14:

Mrs. Emmetts questioned encumbering funding for stream water testing. Mr. Branagan explained the funds are already appropriated in the budget and a quote will be provided to the CFO in September prior to the water testing being conducted.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:10 p.m. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:10 p.m.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey (SJ):

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported that Sustainable Jersey completed their review and provided 50 points in three categories, five actions. It appears many of the documents submitted were never received. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby will contact Sustainable Jersey to discuss how to remedy the matter. One-hundred and fifty points are required for bronze certification and 220 points were submitted.

Paulinskill River Clean Up:

Mr. Blanchard reported that 41 volunteers participated in the project and four truckloads of trash were removed from the river. Participants included Mr. Blanchard, Mr. and Mrs. Branagan, Mrs. Tracey, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby and Mr. Szabo. The majority of the items removed were recyclable and will not be a cost to the township. The project was videotaped.

Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Branagan met with a group from Fairview Lake YMCA Camp and walked the area of Veteran's Memorial Park identifying animals and plants. The group also removed trash along Saddleback Road. Two bobcat skeletal remains were discovered in a trash bag and will be reported to Fish and Wildlife.

Mr. Szabo noted very little trash was found at VMP and commended the DPW on their maintenance of the park and clean up following Stillwater Day. Ms. Chamblings noted that the SLAP program also helps to maintain the park 1-2 times per year.

Recycling Ordinance:

Ms. Chamblings reported she had spoken with Renee Casapulla of SCMUA, who indicated the County recycling ordinance will be updated in the next six months and recommended Stillwater hold off on updating their ordinance until a County model is available.

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby spoke with Ms. Casapulla about E-Waste disposal and was informed Stillwater is in the perfect location for vendor pick-up. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby felt the township should move forward. Ms. Chamblings will follow-up on E-Waste disposal with Ms. Casapulla by email.

E-Waste Day will be held at the SCMUA on July 26, 2014; five items per car will be accepted.

Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) Recycling Receptacle:

Mr. Branagan is in contact with Chairperson Rachel Gullette of the Recreation Commission and they are very interested in placing a receptacle at VMP.

Fishing Line Receptacles:

The receptacle at Route 521 boat launch has been moved to the LC Service area. Mrs. Tracey reported additional receptacles are located at the Paulinskill Lake dam, causeway and under the bridge. Mr. Branagan noted he showed the YMCA campers how to make a fishing line receptacle.

New Business:

Solar Ordinance: Introduced by the Township Committee on July 1, 2014

The EC reviewed the ordinance with the following comments:

-Figure A – page 3, #5 – 5 feet average height – is that in reference to the 15 feet permitted – clarification needed.

-The trees recommended in the ordinance for screening are not native evergreens to the area, and Norway Spruce are doing poorly lately. White Pine and Black Spruce, which are native to the area, were suggested.

-Height of the trees is noted as 5-6’; should be 5-6’ – clarification needed.

Mr. Branagan will follow-up with Joe Golden, Planning Board Engineer, on the issues addressed.

Endangered and Threatened Species Update:

Mr. Branagan asked for this topic to be added to each future agenda to document sightings in the minutes. The following were sighted:

- 1) Wood Turtle in the Paulinskill River
- 2) Timber Rattle Snake – Old Schoolhouse Road
- 3) Possible dead coyote along the road at the County Garage
- 4) Brook Snaketail Dragonfly – several locations along the Paulinskill River
- 5) Long-tailed Salamander on Wall Street

Mrs. Emmetts noted a sighting of a waterfowl with webbed feet that swims with its head under the water. She has not been able to identify the bird which is pure white under the belly and neck, with a rust colored head. Ms. Chamblings suggested having Dan Chamberlin help with the identification.

Water Chestnut:

Mrs. Emmetts reported the Water Chestnut removal will begin at Swartwood Lake including the Swartwood Watershed Association and Paradise Fishing Club.

The seeds must be carefully removed and not dropped in the water; and the plant must be bagged for disposal.

Several groups will participate in the removal including the fishing club and Swartswood Watershed Association.

Motor Vehicle Idling/Emission Ordinance:

The EC reviewed the draft ordinance. Mrs. Branagan questioned why #2, page 1, allows diesel vehicles to idle for up to 15 minutes as opposed to #1, page 1, which allows for motor vehicles to idle for up to 15 minutes if the temperature is less than 25 degrees.

The EC recommended the following verbiage be added:

...that regardless of temperature, gas vehicles cannot idle for more than three minutes.

Ms. Chamblings will report the concern to the Township Committee.

Recycling Flier: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby described the flier, which was included in the annual tax bill mailing. The flier will also be available at town hall and on the website.

ANJEC: Mr. Szabo expressed concern with ANJEC information becoming very political. He referenced the ANJEC report RGGI article and felt there were two points of view on such subjects and both should be provided.

He felt ANJEC was to be used as a resource, similar to NJLOM and individuals should be aware when only one point of view is offered on informational items. He offered more information on the topic to those interested.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:05 p.m.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:05 p.m.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: June 2014

Ms. Chamblings reported the following:

- Solar ordinance was introduced by the Township Committee on 7/1/14.
- Accessory structures and lot line adjustments will be reviewed.
- Franciscan Missionary – Hardwick Road – application for a pole barn was deemed incomplete.
- July meeting was cancelled.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chamblings

- Contract was awarded for the purchase of two DPW dump trucks.
- Salary ordinance was adopted for the position of the Municipal Clerk – certification obtained.
- Solar ordinance was introduced on 7/1/14.
- PSE&G township road damage report was provided by Township Engineer Michael Vreeland.
- Two part-time employees were hired; 1 – 20 hours, 1 – 2 hours.
- Middleville Road bid specifications were received from the Township Attorney.
- Trees for the project have been marked for removal.

Mr. Branagan questioned why weeds are trimmed along the roadsides as it seems not only time-consuming but also costly for the purchase of equipment. Ms. Chamblings explained the process is necessary to prevent the weeds and shrubs from encroaching on the roadway

Ms. Chamblings commended the EC on the adoption of the ERI. She noted that soil classifications are now required for farmland assessment applications. She used the ERI soil map in conjunction with information from the Soil Conservation District to determine her classification.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary