

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 10, 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 Middleville, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Minutes

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 7/13/15, as amended, changing Mr. Szabo's vote to "abstain" on the motion to draft a letter to Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP, copied to other parties, in support of the letter sent to Mr. Martin by the Swartswood Lakes & Watershed Association, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

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. Fleck: 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 7:15 p.m.

There being no one from the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Correspondence:

2015-008 Ordinance – "Vacant and Abandoned Properties" – emailed 7/27/15

Mr. Blanchard was in favor of the ordinance and suggested to the Township Committee that it be amended to include a stipulation requiring fuel oil tanks to be emptied on vacant properties, incentivized by lower or waived fees for those who comply. He indicated that Mayor Scott thought there may be such a requirement in place and he would follow up with the Zoning Officer.

ANJEC Summer Report – Septic System Management

Old Business

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

Paulinskill River Clean Up: Mr. Blanchard reported there is \$3,200 in funding from the grant to pre-pay the 2015 and 2016 stream water testing. In 2017 the municipality will continue to fund the testing every other year. Mr. Branagan emailed Eurofins QC (formerly QC Labs), asking for a quote for 2015 and 2016 water testing to be conducted in October. Mr. Blanchard is still compiling video footage with a tentative deadline of the 23rd. He will then present it to the EC, PAC and the school.

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

Ms. Chammings reported a part-time cashier was hired for the Recycling Center and an advertisement was placed for a full-time DPW employee – Saturday through Wednesday; working at the Recycling Center on Saturday through Monday and with the DPW for the remainder of the time.

Mr. Branagan reported that signage at the Recycling Center still has not been addressed. He expressed concern with proper disposal at the center not being complied with. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby suggested having Renee Casapulla, SCMUA, provide a presentation on recyclable items and having the employees attend so they are informed and can properly direct individuals using the center. Ms. Chammings asked for the presentation to be scheduled after the new full-time employee is hired.

Fishing Line Receptacles: Collection was provided and Mr. Branagan will install the two new receptacles prior to the fall stocking.

Recycling Grant: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the deadline for the grant application has been extended to October 3rd. The Township Committee must adopt a resolution to be submitted with the application. The EC discussed the grant options deciding it would be best used for tire collection. Clean Communities funds can be used to match the grant. A specific time of year will have to be determined for the tire collection. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mrs. Emmetts and Mr. Branagan will work on the application.

New Business

Site Survey Form: Mr. Branagan reviewed the site survey form so that members conducting the inspections would understand how to use them properly. He provided examples for each section. It was determined that a definition was needed for the term “greenway” and a greenway map to reference. More information is also needed on when an Environmental Impact Statement would be necessary. Mr. Branagan would contact the Planning Board Engineer, Joe Golden, for guidance. Mr. Szabo suggested drafting a manual or set of ground rules to follow when making site survey determinations.

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

Mrs. Branagan and Ms. Fobes-Jacoby walked the trail and made the following findings:

- The entrance to the passive path is approximately 10’-12’ wide and narrows to 4’ and then less than 2’.
- Outcroppings to fish are mowed and maintained.
- The trail bends to the right and extends from approximately 2’ wide to 1’ wide. A huge tree blocks the path after that point toward the bridge.

Ms. Chammings will contact the DPW to see if they can address the tree. Mrs. Branagan and Ms. Fobes-Jacoby recommended having SLAP clear and trim the trail; install benches; identify trees and plants with information plaques; and remove the large tree to clear the path. Ms. Chammings felt it was essential to communicate with the Recreation Commission so both sides, active and passive are maintained. She recommended having a plan in place so that both commissions can work together.

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby noted that Lou Sylvester is working on a plan for the parking area, millings if possible. Installing a fence around the Veteran’s Memorial is also being considered to prevent vehicles from parking so close to it.

Ms. Chammings will follow up with SLAP, hoping they will be available at the end of August.

Threatened and Endangered Species Sightings - Stillwater:

The following sightings were reported:

- 2 box turtles, Fairview Lake Road – special concern
- 1 wood turtle, Pond Brook Road – threatened
- 1 wood turtle, Swartswood Park – threatened
- 1 Copperhead snake, Swartswood Park – special concern

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings

The July PB meeting was cancelled.

Community Garden: Mr. Branagan reported that Rachel Gullette, Recreation Commission Chairperson, approached him about starting a community garden on the donated property. Mr. Blanchard felt in this community it would not be successful as compared to an urban area as most residents have the property to develop their own garden. He felt an orchard would be more successful. The EC overall felt a community garden would not be a viable option as the community does not demand it. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby attended the last Recreation Commission and reported that it appeared the RC was considering using the donated property as a practice field at this point.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings

- A Board of Health meeting is scheduled for 8/18/15 immediately following the regular Township Committee meeting. Septic systems are on the agenda for those interested in attending.
- A discussion was held on combining the Planning Board/Zoning Board into a Land Use Board.
- The FEMA generator was approved.

At this point, Mr. Danesi informed the EC that he would be attending school in Newark and it may affect his ability to attend the EC meetings.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:55 p.m.

There being no one from the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:55 p.m.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Emmetts. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Kathy Wunder, Secretary