

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 12, 2013**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Mrs. Fleck arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Szabo arrived at 7:10 p.m.

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

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 7/8/13, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

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

Bills

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

Secretary: \$ 195.00

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, 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: 04 p.m.

Wendie Blanchard, Wall Street stated she received information from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture regarding a grant opportunity she felt could be used toward the development of a community orchard. The grant is a NJ Highlands Council \$10,000 to \$30,000 planning grant for those included in the Highlands Preservation region. She noted the best time to apply would be prior to the end of the State fiscal year and application can be made for up to \$30,000, with the opportunity of \$10,000 per year over the following five years; a total of \$80,000. Ms. Blanchard indicated she is willing to write the grant and will need to work with someone from the municipality such as the Commission Secretary to obtain such items as the Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, and other pertinent information. Mr. Klimek indicated Stillwater is not in the Highlands region and may not be eligible for such funding. Ms. Blanchard will follow up with the Department of Agriculture and confirm eligibility.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:12 p.m.

Correspondence: None

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey/GreenFest:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported on the upcoming GreenFest event. There will be at least 15 vendors and Rizzo's Reptiles will provide two 45-minute programs. The day will also include live music and will be held on Sunday, August 18, 2013 from 1-4 p.m. at the Fairview Lake YMCA Camp. There will be free give-aways, Project Trashway with awards presented; donations have been received from Lakeland Bank of \$150, and \$100 from the Recreation Commission. The event will be held rain or shine. Signs will be posted prior to the event and it has been well-advertised. There will be no admission fee and the goal of the program is education, green and fun. Mr. Branagan noted he had met with Renee Casapulla of the SCMUA who will provide 100 flyers containing SCMUA information for the GreenFest.

No Litter Signs: The hardware and posts have been delivered. Mr. Branagan will also post a board containing the anti-idling brochure information and a copy of the no littering sign at the GreenFest.

Fishing Line: Collected fishing line was provided to Mr. Branagan and will be on display at the GreenFest.

Route 521 – (3) 55 gallon drums (across from the Boathouse Restaurant):

Two of the barrels have been removed. Zoning Officer Arlene Fisher is following up on the remaining barrel with Schwan's.

Recycling Ordinance Review:

The EC reviewed portions of the Recycling Ordinance and discussed the list of acceptable items included in the ordinance. It was questioned whether or not the township picks up recycling from the school and Mr. Branagan will follow up with Keith Whitehead, Recycling Coordinator, for an answer. Also discussed was the disposal of different types of containers, bottles, juice boxes, plastic, etc. Mr. Branagan reviewed a brochure provided by the SCMUA indicating acceptable items and he discussed a list he drafted of questions and comments regarding the Recycling Ordinance. The list will be emailed to the EC for their review and input.

Lakeland Bank/Anti-Idling Signs: Mr. Branagan has been in contact with Mr. Clegg of the bank and will follow up with the Planning Board Attorney for an opinion on whether or not a permit will be necessary to install anti-idling signs at the bank.

Pond/Fountain: Mr. Branagan and Mr. Blanchard visited the site of the pond and there was no longer any indication of blue water as reported at the last EC meeting. Mr. Branagan will contact Larry Kovar for more information on what may have caused the blue color.

Solar Ordinance: The Planning Board is still reviewing ordinances and felt Vernon's ordinance was too strict and Hardwick may be the closest to what would be suitable for Stillwater.

New Business

Outdoor Wood Furnaces (OWF): Mr. Szabo provided a County brochure on OWF he obtained at the State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show for the EC to review.

Swartwood Lake Association: Mrs. Emmetts noted that Blanca Chevrestt, Superintendent of the State Park, commended the EC on the installation of the fishing line receptacles. Mrs. Emmetts also reported there was a fish kill in the lake (mostly Sunnies) due to an overnight increase in temperature of 10 degrees. Water Chestnut has been found in the lake and 50+ individuals organized to address the issue, finding two patches and removing the invasive by hand. The lake will be checked annually for the invasive from this point forward.

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

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road commented on the PSE&G hammering which he feels is affecting his well and water quality. He sent a letter to PSE&G representative George Sous and to date has not received a response. Mr. Steckowich also mentioned that he heard about a township that is considering an ordinance requiring soiled diapers to be disposed of at a separate Recycling Center.

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

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report:

Mr. Branagan reported the following:

- Castner application for a pole building was deemed complete.
- PB is considering increasing the maximum size of an accessory building (pole barn) to more than the current requirement of 1,000 square feet.
- Solar ordinances are still under review by the PB.

Township Liaison Report: None

Planning Grant (Municipal Orchard): Mrs. Blanchard will confirm that Stillwater is eligible for the Planning Grant and Mr. Blanchard will forward the grant information to the Commission Liaison, Committeewoman Chammings.

At this point, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to authorize Wendie Blanchard to pursue planning grant funding from the NJ Department of Agriculture/Highlands Council for the planning of a community orchard, pending eligibility confirmation, to be presented to the Township Committee for final approval, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary