

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 14, 2013**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Szabo

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.

REC Solar Presentation:

The following representatives of REC Solar provided a presentation on solar power: Nick Walsh, Joshua Baptist, and Jesse Lubkiewicz.

They provided a background on the company itself, which has been in existence for 16 years, in eight states and in New Jersey for seven years. They have conducted several hundred installations in New Jersey. The solar energy process was explained; determining usage need, what is needed power wise, and the installation procedure. The presentation included a question and answer period throughout and informal discussion with the public present. Limitations on solar farms and new state legislation enacted last year were briefly discussed. Financing options were addressed such as Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), Residential, Commercial and Municipal financing, as well as firehouses and churches. There is a federal tax incentive – 3% tax credit. The presentation concluded with the distribution of brochures and tote bag including information.

Minutes

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 10/21/13, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts.

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

Bills

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

Secretary:	\$ 195.00
NJH (Oct. meeting date change)	\$ 7.50
Land Conservancy/ERI Review	\$ 300.00

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

Correspondence:

NJDEP Notice of Application for YMCA – Minisink Lodge Septic Alteration

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:43 p.m. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:43 p.m.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey (SJ)/Anti-Idling Resolution:

The EC reviewed the draft of the model anti-idling resolution obtained from the SJ website. EC members questioned enforcement responsibility, and agreed the State anti-idling law should be attached to the resolution. The municipal enforcing agency must be determined. Mr. Branagan will contact the Zoning Officer regarding the matter prior to forwarding the resolution on to the Township Committee for consideration.

Land Conservancy/ERI:

Following discussion, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to forward a letter to the Township Committee recommending

they enter into an agreement with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey to update the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI). The cost to update the ERI is \$5,700 and the fee for the project can be paid through the Open Space Trust Fund. It was noted the Land Conservancy has reduced the fee quoted in April by \$300 for the work completed on the review of the 2007 Inventory. The **motion** was seconded by Mr. Branagan.

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

Tree Ordinance Revision:

Ms. Chamblings reported Committeewoman Straway was pleased with the revisions to the proposed tree ordinance amendment and it will be introduced at the next Township Committee meeting.

Littering Fines:

The EC discussed the proposed littering/dumping fines. Mr. Branagan noted the Zoning Officer felt if the fines were too excessive, the issue would proceed to court and be dismissed.

FINES FOR LITTERING/DUMPING IN STILLWATER TWSP
1ST OFFENSE 2ND OFFENSE 3RD OFFENSE 4TH OFFENSE
\$50.00/\$500.00 \$200.00/\$1000 \$500.00/\$1500 \$1000.00/\$2000
****Littering is the lower of the two fines/dumping is the higher of the two fines.***

The EC felt a definition was necessary for the term “dumping.” The fines can be addressed after a definition is determined. The following definition will be considered after further review by the EC and the Zoning Officer, and will be added to the next agenda:

Illegal dumping is the unlawful disposal of used tires, construction debris, old appliances, furniture, as well as general household, commercial and industrial wastes in places other than permitted facilities such as landfills and transfer stations. The garbage is usually dumped on vacant lots, along utility right-of-ways, on public and private lands, and at other normally unattended locations.

He will contact Mrs. Fisher, Zoning Officer, for her input and if there are no issues the proposal will be forwarded to the Township Committee for their consideration.

Route 521 – (3) 55 gallon drums (across from the Boathouse Restaurant): The drums have all been removed.

Recycling Ordinance Review/Recycling Center Report:

Mr. Branagan reported the subcommittee formed to address the information board installation at the Recycling Center has not had a chance to meet yet. The EC briefly reviewed the Recycling Report. Mr. Branagan, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, and Mr. Blanchard will meet to update the Recycling Ordinance.

Anti-Littering Signs: Mr. Branagan contacted Mr. Hendershot, DPW Supervisor, on 10/1/13 and provided the sign locations for installation. No signs have been installed as of this date. Ms. Chamblings contacted Committeeman Scott regarding the matter as he is the DPW liaison. Mrs. Wunder will follow-up with the DPW.

New Business

Veteran’s Memorial Park (VMP) – Recycling Receptacle:

Mr. Branagan will contact Troop 1453 to see how successful the receptacle has been and whether or not there have been any issues. Mr. Klimek noted that the recycling containers currently at VMP indicate they are for cans and bottles. He felt they should be changed to indicate disposal for all recyclable containers, including plastic.

School Newsletter: Mr. Branagan reported the following EC notice will be included in the school newsletter for the next two weeks:

Residents of Stillwater: It has been one year since Super Storm Sandy and there still may be trees leaning on electrical wires in town. If you notice any tree leaning on wires or trees which may be leaning precariously close to wires please report to the township. Call 973-383-9484. Thank you. Stillwater Environmental Commission.

Hazardous Household Clean UP Day information will also be included.

2014 Budget Worksheet: Following a review of the worksheet, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to forward the following 2014 Budget request to the Township Committee for consideration, seconded by Mr. Klimek:

Advertising:	\$ 125.00
Forms/Books:	\$ 100.00
Office Supplies:	\$1,000.00*
Membership:	\$ 400.00
Stream Water Testing:	\$1,500.00
Outreach/Events:	\$ 200.00
Seminars/Training:	\$ 300.00
Open Space Brochure:	\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous:	\$ 100.00
Salary:	\$ **

*The office supplies line item was increased to reflect the purchase of file cabinets.

**The increase for the secretary salary line item will be a percentage determined by the Township Committee afforded to all employees.

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

2013 Annual Report:

The report was drafted by Mrs. Emmetts for EC review. The November/December meeting information will have to be added prior to approving the report to be forwarded to the Township Committee in January.

Municipal Building Lighting:

Mr. Branagan expressed concern with the spotlight located in the parking lot of the Municipal Building and asked if it would be addressed during the renovations. Ms. Chamblings indicated the light is a JCP&L light and it is not in the renovation plan to replace it with a motion sensor light. She indicated lighting along the building itself will be motion sensing. There may be a possibility the spot light could be eliminated.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:52 p.m.

Lee Hammond, 904 Maple Lane asked if there were any updates on the fracking issue in New Jersey. Mr. Branagan stated the Township Committee passed a resolution opposing fracking. Mr. Hammond spoke about fracking in Colorado which is a major issue. He noted Genesis Farm held two presentations on the subject, Gas Land/Gas Land II and it is a frightening subject. Mr. Blanchard questioned the ability of the municipality having the jurisdiction to adopt ordinances restricting fracking and pipelines.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 9 p.m.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: The October 2013 meeting was cancelled.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chamblings

-Municipal Building renovations are moving along quite well.

-An ordinance was introduced funding the purchase of a new ambulance, \$160,000.

-The tree ordinance will be introduced at the next Township Committee meeting, 11/26/13.

-The township will change from Liberty Power to an energy co-op, resulting in a savings of \$500 to \$600 per year based on current usage, which will increase with the renovation.

- An exemption for the Certified Public Works Manager certification is moving forward, resulting in a savings of \$8,000 per year which the township is currently paying the Township Engineer for his certification.
- Revaluation letters should be mailed out by the end of November.
- Recreation Commission is holding a holiday decorating contest, deadline is 12/6/13 and a tree lighting will be held on 12/14/13 from 6-9 p.m. at the Swartswood Firehouse.
- SLAP will be at VMP on 11/17, 11/18 and 11/24.
- A public hearing will be held on the diversion of public parkland by PSE&G to move a power line project away from Fredon School. The next County Open Space meeting will be held on 12/5/13 at the Freeholders meeting room at 7:30 p.m.
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan approved \$25,000 for a generator for town hall.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Klimek. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary