

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
March 14, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Fleck, Mr. Szabo, Ms. Ramberg, Mrs. Tracey, Mr. Nystrom, Mr. Branagan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Emmetts, 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.

**Minutes**

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of February 14, 2011, seconded by Ms. Ramberg.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**Bills**

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mrs. Fleck: Secretary \$ 180.25

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:03 p.m. and there being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:03 p.m.**

**Old Business**

**Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LC)/Open Space Map:** No report. This item will be carried to the next agenda. Mr. Szabo noted that the Township Committee has renewed its contract with the Land Conservancy for 2011.

**Trail Map:** No report. This item will be carried to the next agenda.

**Outdoor Woodburning Furnace (OWF) Ordinance:** Mr. Branagan reported the ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Board subcommittee consisting of Mr. Branagan, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Feenstra and Mrs. Pflugh and revisions were made. He met with Mrs. Wunder to make the revisions and finalize a draft of the OWF ordinance. The proposed ordinance will be reviewed by the Planning Board at their meeting on March 16, 2011. Ms. Ramberg asked if the current owners of an OWF would be notified of the May through October operation restriction policy. Mr. Branagan stated the proposed ordinance does not address current owners; however they would be covered under complaints made to the County Department of Environmental Services. He will follow up on this matter at the Planning Board level. Mr. Szabo suggested contacting Mr. Yardley at the County to ask for their policy and procedure when a complaint is filed regarding an OWF.

At this point in the meeting, it was noted that Cathy Fobes-Jacoby was present as a candidate to serve on the EC.

**E-Waste Management:**

Mr. Branagan reported that Good Will is not conducting their dumpster program for e-waste in Sussex County at this time. He stated the SCMUA will be holding a FREE E-Waste Collection on March 19, 2011. Mr. Whitehead is in contact with Renee Capasulla of SCMUA regarding obtaining an e-waste container for the Recycling Center.

**ANJEC 2011 Sustainable Land Use Planning Grants Eligibility:**

Eligibility for many of the grants offered is based on having Sustainable Jersey certification. Mrs. Emmetts and Mr. Szabo will work together to obtain the certification for increased access to grant funding.

**SCMUA 2011 Electronics Materials Recycling List:**

I. Covered Electronics	II. Non-covered Electronics	Modems
Television	Cable Attachments	Computer Mouse
Desktop computers	Cell Phones	Personal Digital
Assistants (PDAs)		
Monitors	CD Players & CDS	Printers
Portable/laptop computers	Copiers	Scanners
	Cameras	Speakers
	DVD Players & DVDs	Stereo and Radio Equipment
	E-book Readers	Telephones
	Fax Machines	VCRs & VCR Tapes
	Keyboards	Any products
containing rechargeable batteries	MP3 Players	Other as approved by
SCMUA/Vendor		

**Joint Environmental Commission (EC) Meeting Between Municipalities:**

Mr. Branagan reported a joint EC meeting will be held including several local municipalities on March 16, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Blairstown Municipal Building. Mr. Szabo and Mrs. Tracey will attend. Topics will include the Paulinskill River as it runs through all the municipalities involved. Mr. Szabo stated that Nathaniel Sajdak is currently working on a grant funded study of Category One waterways, specifically the Paulinskill River. He stated there are nine entities discharging effluent into the Paulinskill. He will bring the subject up for discussion at the joint meeting.

**Joint Environmental Commission/Recreation Commission Subcommittee Meeting:**

**Ms. Chamings provided a report based on the following memo:**

*To: Recreation Commission, Environmental Commission, Township Committee*

*From: Lisa Chamings, Jack Branagan*

*Re: Garbage at Veteran's Park*

*Date: March 14, 2011*

*After our Recreation Meeting, the Environmental Commission Meeting, and conversations shared by Committeewoman Straway regarding conversations with Brian Hendershot, our joint recommendation stands for garbage to be removed by our DPW workers after heavy usage at the*

*parks. Schedules will be provided to the DPW regarding park usage in order to coordinate appropriate pick up of garbage.*

*Instead of purchasing bear proof cans we are recommending 55 gallon drums with a weight at the bottom and drum liner garbage bags. We will look into painting the drums and labeling them with appropriate usage as well as a possible lid of some type. We recommend that these drums be placed at Veteran's Park, Stillwater Park, and Volunteer Field. A total of 8 drums are requested. 2 will be placed at Stillwater Park, 2 at Volunteer Field, and up to 4 at Veteran's Park if needed during peak usage. We also recommend that No Littering signs be placed at each of the parks utilized by recreation/sports programs.*

Ms. Chammings was present and stated that the receptacles cannot be purchased until she has an accounting of the Clean Communities funding, and she will contact the CFO for that information. Mr. Branagan noted that if the agreed upon policy is not successful, another joint meeting can be held and the issue re-addressed. Ms. Chammings added that according to the Clean Communities grant guidelines, the funds can be used toward the enforcement of local anti-littering laws.

**Recycling Center Battery Disposal:**

Mr. Branagan spoke with Mr. Whitehead regarding the concerns expressed about the appropriate disposal of batteries at the Recycling Center. Mr. Branagan stated proper signage has since been installed, appropriate disposal is available and the shed has been cleaned out. Ms. Ramberg was still concerned that people may not be aware of what proper disposal is. The SCMUA battery flyers distributed earlier this year will again be made available at the Municipal Building and Recycling Center.

**New Business**

**Amphibian Crossing Rescue:**

Mr. Szabo and Mr. Branagan participated in two Amphibian Rescues. The results for each Amphibian Rescue are as follows:

**March 6, 2011 Amphibian Rescue:**

Hours Surveyed: 2.5 Weather: Steady rain throughout the survey

Temp.: Start – 45 degrees End - 40 degrees

# Vehicles: 39 # Roadkills: 28 # Vehicles per hour: 15.6

Duck Pond: 1 Spring Peeper

Wandering: 1 Wood Frog; 13 Spring Peepers; 6 Jefferson Salamanders; 5 Newts

SW of Frog Pond: 1 Wood Frog; 1 Jefferson Salamander; 1 Newt

SW of Frog Pond: 1 Spotted Salamander; 4 Spring Peepers; 1 Jefferson Salamander

Frog Pond W: 1 Spotted Salamander; 1 Wood Frog; 2 Spring Peeper; 4 Jefferson Salamanders; 2

Chorus Frogs; 8 Newts

Frog Pond Center: 3 Spotted Salamanders; 9 Wood Frogs; 3 Spring Peepers; 9 Jefferson Salamanders

Frog Pond East: 17 Wood Frogs; 2 Spring Peepers; 4 Jefferson Salamanders

Totals: 6 Spotted Salamanders; 34 Wood Frogs; 26 Spring Peepers; 29 Jefferson Salamanders; 2

Chorus Frogs; 14 Newts

**Total Amphibians: 111**

**March 10, 2011 Amphibian Rescue:**

Hours Surveyed: 2.5 Weather: Steady rain throughout the survey  
Temp.: Start – 55.4 degrees End – 54.3 degrees  
# Vehicles: 70 # Roadkills: 106\* # Vehicles per hour: 28 \*70% of roadkills were peepers  
East Shore Drive (floating locations):  
122 Spotted Salamanders; 160 Wood Frogs; 246 Spring Peepers; 1 Four-toed Salamander; 21  
Jefferson Salamanders; 1 Chorus Frog; 21 Newts  
**Total Amphibians: 572**

**Surface Water Quality Standards:** Mr. Branagan is still working on obtaining standard levels for surface water quality. QC Laboratories referred him to a website for the information but he was unable to find the acceptable water testing standards. Mr. Szabo suggested contacting Nathaniel Sajdak as he may be able to provide the information.

**Site Survey Form Acceptance:**

**Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless,** Block 3101, Lot 13, Cal. No. 566

Mr. Branagan reported he and Mr. Szabo conducted the site survey and there are definitely wetlands located on the property. The access road to the cell tower does not extend through the wetlands. The same access road is being used by PSE&G and it diverts and crosses directly through the wetlands. This concern was addressed in the EC site survey report.

Ms. Ramberg made a **motion** to accept the site survey form for Cellco Partnership, Block 3101, Lot 13, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**Site Survey Application:**

**Nextel of New York, Inc. & JCP&L,** Block 1703, Lot 21, Cal. No. 569, site survey to be conducted by Mr. Szabo and Mr. Branagan, with Ms. Ramberg.

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:58 p.m.**

**Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road** provided an email he received regarding gas drilling within 500 feet of the Delaware River. He informed the EC that objections can be made in writing on a form provided on the Delaware River Basin Commission website. Mr. Szabo suggested addressing the subject at the joint EC meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Steckowich referred to the discussion on the trash receptacles at Veteran's Memorial Park and he stated that "litter" should be defined.

Mr. Steckowich stated that Sparta Township sends a letter to all residents regarding the quality of water in the town. The Sparta Water Commission reports on both ground and surface water quality and what the acceptable levels are. Mr. Branagan will follow up with Sparta.

Mr. Steckowich stated he recently passed Castner's and the smoke from their outdoor wood stove lasted more than five minutes. He questioned the setback distances and where the setback is measured from. Mr. Branagan stated the setback is from the property line. He asked Mr. Steckowich to clarify whether the smoke was from an OWF or from the maple syrup that the Castners are making.

**Lisa Chammings, 928 Mt. Holly Road** referred to the proposed OWF ordinance and the October through May restriction for the use of an OWF. She stated many people use an OWF to heat water and she was concerned with this requirement of the ordinance being too restrictive. Mr. Branagan stated that during the outdoor weather an OWF can adversely affect people's ability to enjoy the outdoors due to the smoke.

**There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:15 p.m.**

**Planning Board Liaison Report:** Mr. Branagan reported the following:

The Planning Board (PB) meeting was held on February 16, 2011. The Board interviewed engineers and hired Joseph Golden as their new Board Engineer for 2011. The OWF was briefly discussed. Due to meeting time constraints, the other items on the agenda were held over until the March PB meeting.

**Township Liaison Report:** Mrs. Straway reported the Township Committee will meet on March 15, 2011. She is still gathering information on the trash issue at Veteran's Memorial Park and she met with Brian Hendershot. She spoke with Fredon regarding their procedure and was informed they have a part-time DPW worker who is responsible for picking up the trash three to four times per week. During the high peak season, organizations must bag their own trash, and they do not recycle. Mr. Hendershot indicated that whether or not recycling receptacles are available, people tend to mix the trash. Mr. Hendershot also recommended 55 gallon receptacles for the park. Mr. Branagan and Ms. Chamings agreed with using 55 gallon drums, which could be painted. Mrs. Straway stated she suggested to Mr. Hendershot that the DPW pick up the trash on Mondays and following large capacity games and practices.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Ms. Ramberg. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

**Next Meeting:** April 11, 2011