

**Environmental Commission Meeting**

**Minutes**

**May 13, 2008@ 7:30 PM**

**A. Open Meeting**

Meeting is called to order at 7:35 p.m. and it is announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised. Christina Albrecht volunteered to be the record keeper for this meeting.

**Members Present:**

**Cheryl Filler, Chair**

**Jackie Oliphant**

**Christina Albrecht**

**Gary Buchanan**

**Steve Foster**

**Frank Gatti**

**Members of the Public**

**Robert Becker**

**B. Minutes:**

1. **January 22, 2008 – carried to next meeting**
2. **April 22, 2008 – Steve Foster made a motion to approve the minutes, Jackie Oliphant seconded the motion.**

**C. LOI Review**

1. **B. 63, L. 51 – Statewide General Permit #25- *Noted.***
2. **B. 50, L. 3 – Statewide General Permit #25 - *Noted***
3. **B. 56, L. 2 – NJDEP General Permit No. 8 - *Noted – This is an historic residence and the owner's are planning to build an addition. The EC noticed that there are Eastern Box Turtles and Wood Turtles on the site. They have to make sure that these turtles are not disturbed. Since the wetland area located on the property is likely to be of exceptional resource value it has been assumed that a 150 wetlands buffer will apply. The wetlands on site do not comply with the definition of waters in the United States, meaning it is not defined as open water. The addition can be constructed under NJDE General Permit #8 which permits additions up to 750 square feet to existing single family dwellings. The total addition consists of 1,112 square feet, 800 square feet of which is located over existing impervious surfaces. There will be a net increase in the size of the addition of 312 square feet. The owners are going to be removing part of the historic building and plan to rebuild it. It was recommended that the Historic Preservation Commission should be notified so that they can review the LOI application and to watch for the future restoration.***

*On another matter, the Chair informed everyone that Merck appeared before the Planning Board. They had an approval from 20 years ago to build another 900 square feet of office space. There are no plans to further develop the site; however, they wanted to make sure that the approvals remained current. The Planning Board gave them a 10 year extension. The EC reviewed their LOI several meetings ago and determined that there are no environmental issues. The reason for the LOI was to make sure that if given an extension, they would be able to build. They also during their presentation to the Planning Board gave a brief synopsis of the proposed solar panel application. The panels will provide 10 to 20 percent of their power needs.*

**D. Correspondence:**

1. Letter addressed to Mayor Auriemma from the South Branch Watershed Association dated 4-21-08 - Noted
2. Copy of email regarding “Clean & green go together like mop & pail”  
*The EC recommended that this be forwarded to the Township Committee for their information for them to try to implement some of the recommendations.*
3. Copy of letter addressed to Jill Neall of NJDEP from H. Clay McEldowney regarding application for special activity transition area waiver redevelopment and transition area averaging plan waiver. *The county is going to repair Route 523. They have also offered to pave the Bank Street parking lot. No action taken.*

**E Other Business:**

1. Stream Monitoring - *The Board was polled to see if they were interested in participating in stream monitoring this year. She stated that anytime within the 2 week period monitoring period trained volunteers can go out and monitor the streams. Jackie Oliphant and Steve Foster volunteered to monitor the South Branch Streams.*
2. Community Day coverage – *Jackie Oliphant volunteered to help set up on the morning. Mrs. Filler stated that she will attend the entire day. Steve Foster will cover from 12:00 to 3:30 p.m.-*

**F. Educational Opportunities**

1. Land Use in NJ Conference – June 26 & 27, 2008 Iselin, NJ –  
*Noted.*
2. Upper Raritan Watershed Association - Noted, *if membership dues are due they will be paid.*

**G. Site Plan Review and Comment**

**PLANNING BOARD – HEARING FILES**

1. Heather Liardo  
Minor Subdivision  
Block 51, Lot 25  
92 Dreahook Road *Noted – no action taken.*

**PLANNING BOARD – COMPLETENESS FILES**

1. TC& D Builders, Inc.  
Minor Subdivision  
636 Old York Road  
Block 97, Lot 4  
*Action Date: June 9, 2008 Noted. Steve Foster will be notified as to when the next Planning Board Technical Review Committee is scheduled. He plans to attend.*

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – HEARING FILES**

- 1. CharDham Hindu Temple/Readington  
Use Variance & Preliminary Site Plan  
25A Coddington Road  
Action date: May 15, 2008 Noted. *Frank Gatti informed everyone that the applicant will provide witnesses to refute the neighbor's witness testimony.***

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – COMPLETENESS FILES**

None

**H. Publications**

None

**I. Minutes**

**Board of Adjustment  
Planning Board**

**J. Soil Conservation Reports**

- 1. HCSCD regarding Shields residence, B. 66, L. 57 “Confirmation of 48 hour notification of land disturbance *Noted***

**K. Public Comment – *Robert Becker had some comments regarding recycling. Most of his comments were about separating the recycling items. Madam Chair stated a notice should be posted at DPW that would indicate what can be recycled at the municipal building and where someone could go to recycle the other items. Mr. Gatti volunteered to contact Mike Kovonuk, CCEO, for recommendations regarding the proper way to handle this matter.***

**L. Adjournment- *Gary Buchanan made a motion to adjourn. Jackie Oliphant seconded the motion. Motion was carried with a vote of Ayes all, Nays none recorded.***

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Christina Albrecht*