

Environmental Commission Meeting

Minutes

May 28, 2008 @ 7:30 PM

A. Open Meeting

Meeting is called to order at 7:30 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.

Members Present:

Cheryl Filler, Chair

Jackie Oliphant

Steve Foster

Jay Kelly

Christina Albrecht

Members of the Public

None

B. Minutes:

1. **January 22, 2008 – carried to next meeting – *Gary Buchanan will be notified to re-distribute to the EC members for their review and approval.***
2. **May 13, 2008 – *Christina Albrecht signed the minutes with one minor change. Steve Foster made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jackie Oliphant seconded the motion. Motion was carried with a vote of Ayes all, Nays none recorded.***

C. LOI Review

1. **B. 21.13, L(s) 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 - *Madam Chair stated that this LOI application is for Van Doren Oil. The owner wants to establish the wetlands boundaries. There are no regulated activities. Reviewed, no action taken.***
2. **B. 39, L. 3 *Madam Chair announced that the township engineer has already reviewed the LOI and has created a letter. Additionally, the EC determined to write a letter to DEP indicating that there are wetlands on the site. A draft will be forwarded to the secretary for finalization and mailing.***

D. Correspondence:

1. **Copy of email from Sally Kean regarding the Raritan Watershed Alliance Bulletin *Noted.***
2. **Copy of facsimile to Hunterdon County Democrat, along with ad for URWA Stream Monitoring *Noted***
3. **Memo regarding press release sent to Township Committee *Noted***
4. **Memo to Historic Preservation Commission regarding B. 56, L. 2 *Noted***
5. **Copy of facsimile to Hunterdon Democrat, along with ad for SBWA *Noted***

E Other Business:

1. **Stream Monitoring- *Between the 15th and 30th of June, the EC will monitor a combination of 16 sites for the Upper Raritan Watershed.***

There are specific sites already established. Jay Kelly acknowledged that he will take the Upper Raritan training with some of his students. Madam Chair stated that she has requested help from Clinton Township and Tewksbury Township's Environmental Commissions to monitor the sites. If anyone is interested in monitoring the South Branch sites, they can sign up directly with the South Branch.

Madam Chair will keep track of the sites that have been monitored and will notify the EC via email of the sites that still need to be monitored.

F. Educational Opportunities

None

G. Site Plan Review and Comment

PLANNING BOARD – HEARING FILES

PLANNING BOARD – COMPLETENESS FILES

1. American Classics, LLC
Final Major Subdivision
Block 69, Lot 12

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – HEARING FILES

1. CharDham Hindu Temple/Readington
Use Variance & Preliminary Site Plan
25A Coddington Road
Action date: June 19, 2008 Noted
2. Wachovia Bank, N.A.
420 Route 22
Block 8, lots 4, 5, 6 & 7
Variance application
Action date: July 31, 2008 *Noted*
3. New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
Block 17, Lot 9
384 Route 22,
Variance
Action date: July 18, 2008 *Madam Chair stated that the application is for an antennae co-location on the existing monopole flagpole. Noted.*

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – COMPLETENESS FILES

1. **Winfield Management Corp.
Preliminary-Final Site Plan &
Use Variance
Action date: July 4, 2008**

H. Publications

1. **“The Current”**

I. Minutes

**Board of Adjustment
Planning Board**

J. Soil Conservation Reports

None

- K. Other Comments – Jay Kelly stated that he has been performing endangered species surveys within the township. He has found a new endangered plant population on the Cushetunk Nature Preserve that is located on the Readington Township boundary. He stated that the National Heritage Program’s botanist has been to this site and will prepare the proper paperwork. There are 3 new populations of endangered plants on Round Mountain that is across from the Stanton General Store. He plans on going to this site with the botanist on Friday in order to document their findings. During the past two days, Mr. Kelly has performed endangered grassland bird surveys in the township and found 35 endangered grassland birds on 4 different sites within the township. There are still two more sites that he has to inspect. There are 4 different species and 35 different birds that are individual nesting pairs that are endangered. Island Road is a huge hotspot for endangered grassland birds in the State. There are 8 pairs of Bobolinks and two pairs of Eastern Meadowlarks. Solberg Airport had twelve Bobolinks and two Grasshopper Sparrows. The Buffalo Farm mowed half of the land already and had one Eastern Meadowlark and had one Grasshopper Sparrow. The Readington Wildlife Management Area had 10 Bobolink pairs and possibly a Savannah Sparrow. Misty Acres had Grasshopper Sparrows.**

Steve Foster asked if a plan should be given to the Buffalo Farm so that they know when to mow. The EC agreed.

Christina Albrecht wanted to know what plants he found that were endangered. Mr. Kelly answered, the Winged Monkey Flowers, Pennywort flower, and Wild Comfrey was found at Round Valley. Another very rare plant is American Ginseng. The location of plant will remain confidential.

L. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At an earlier time during this meeting, a member of the public stopped by briefly to express a concern regarding how the EC was going to handle the recycling for the other kinds of plastic products. Madam Chair stated that at the last meeting Frank Gatti was going to ask the Township Committee for their recommendations and

guidance. Mr. Foster was clear that this inquiry made by the public member be placed in the minutes.

- M. Adjournment-** *Christina Albrecht made a motion to adjourn. Steve Foster seconded the motion. Motion was carried with a vote of Ayes all, Nays none recorded.*

Respectfully submitted,