

Environmental Commission Meeting

Minutes

February 1, 2011

A. Open Meeting

Meeting is called to order at 7:40 p.m. and it is announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised.

Members present:

**Jerry Cook
Jason Giroud
Judy Tutela
Frank Ace
Christina Albrecht arrived at 7:50 p.m.
Steve Foster, Chair**

**Stephen H. Foster – Three year term
Judy Tutela – Three year term
Frank Ace – Three year term
Andrew Butula (alternate) Two year term
Jerry Cook – Three year term
Jason Giroud – One year term**

B. Minutes:

1. December 7, 2010 - Frank Ace made a motion to approve the minutes. Judy Tutela seconded the motion. Mr. Cook and Ms. Albrecht abstained. Remainder voted all in favor.

C. LOI/Freshwater Wetlands

- 1. B. 51, L. 2.15 – application for freshwater wetlands Statewide General Permit – carried to the next meeting.**
- 2. B. 47.07, L. 53 – Flood Hazard Area application – carried to the next meeting.**

D. Correspondence:

- 1. Inter-Office Memorandum from Vita Mekovetz regarding Wildlife Action Plan – noted**
- 2. ANJEC – Membership renewal information – Frank Ace made a motion to renew their membership for 2011. Jason Giroud seconded the motion. All in favor.**
- 3. Letter from PSE&G regarding General permit - carried to next meeting.**
- 4. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 44, L. 34- carried to next meeting.**

5. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 39, L. 49.11 – carried to next meeting.

E. New Business:

1. EC 2011 TRC coverage schedule – The members reviewed the schedule to make sure it was convenient for everyone. If there are changes, they will submit to the secretary and a revised schedule will be circulated.
2. Committee Member projects and interests in 2011'' to set up a discussion for the team- In addition to the business of the EC, the Chairman requested that the EC members participate as coaches on specific projects. They will prepare a working list and address this matter at a future date.
3. Natural Resource Inventory-Hydraulically Sensitive Areas, Prepared by Donna Drewes – The Chairman informed the members that this document is specifically recommending changes to the Natural Resource Inventory by maintaining and managing sensitive areas. The assumptions in this document is that the type of soil has a direct relationship as to how much water will become waste or create problems downstream. Even though there are setbacks, this would require the ordinances to become more specific. Dr. Souza of Princeton Hydro reviewed the information and Responded to Donna Drewes. The EC recognizes that the study took place. The EC responded to the Upper Raritan through Dr. Souza, who is the expert in the area. This matter will be discussed in the upcoming months.
4. Review of Franklin Township Solar Ordinance to enhance Readington's Solar Ordinance- Chairman suggested that the EC review this ordinance and compare it with Readington's solar ordinance. The township does have an Ordinance Subcommittee that is currently working on upgrading the Ordinances. If there are suggestions, please let the Ordinance subcommittee via the secretary.
5. Discussion - Bellemead Associates – This matter has been in existence for many years. It consists of a development that will be constructed in Tewksbury Township. It will be situated next to the Rockaway Creek. They are proposing to take sewerage from that development and the finished product from the sewerage treatment plant will be piped down, run under Route 78, and discharged in Readington Township in the Rockaway Creek. A hearing is scheduled for February 23, 2011 in Tewksbury Township. The EC will attend the meeting and have completed their review of the facts so that they can be presented on

behalf of Readington Township for the preservation of water quality of the Rockaway Creek and opposing the Bellemead Associates proposal. There are endangered species that could be potentially harmed too. Mr. Ace stated that the State in the past denied Readington's petition in opposition to this approval referencing that there was not sufficient evidence for a C-1 classification. Mr. Cook indicated that he will not be available to attend the meeting on February 23rd, but he notified the members of the Trout Unlimited Group and hopefully some of those members will be able to attend that meeting. Ms. Albrecht felt that a show of numbers at this meeting to oppose this application would be helpful to get the message across. Mrs. Filler has a contact in Tewksbury Township and she will inform the EC as new information becomes available.

This matter will be carried and discussed at the next EC meeting.

F. Educational Opportunities

None

G. Site Plan Review and Comment

PLANNING BOARD – HEARING FILES

None

PLANNING BOARD – COMPLETENESS FILES

None

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – HEARING FILES

None

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – COMPLETENESS FILES

None

H. Publications

None

I. Minutes

Board of Adjustment
Planning Board

J. Other Business:

- 1. By-Laws – The Chairman suggested that the EC create By-Laws. The By-Laws will help manage the productivity of member’s participation. Ms. Albrecht informed everyone that the EC had discussed this matter a few years ago. She suggested a more relaxed version of By-Laws be created unless a problem arises and it would have to be dealt with differently. The Chairman volunteered to obtain samples of by-laws from other municipalities for the EC to review at an upcoming meeting.**

None

K. Public Comment - None

L. Adjournment – Ms. Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Ms. Tutela seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted.