

Environmental Commission Meeting

Minutes

February 15, 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
Jay Kelly
Steve Foster, Chair**

B. Minutes:

1. February 1, 2011 - Frank Ace made a motion to approve the minutes. Judy Tutela seconded the motion. Jay Kelly abstained. Remainder voted all in favor.

C. LOI/Freshwater Wetlands

- 1. B. 51, L. 2.15 – application for freshwater wetlands Statewide General Permit – noted – no action taken**
- 2. B. 47.07, L. 53 – Flood Hazard Area application – noted- no action taken**

D. Correspondence:

carried from last meeting:

- 3. Letter from PSE&G regarding General permit – Noted – No action taken.**
- 4. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 44, L. 34 Flood hazard notification – No action taken**
- 5. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 39, L. 49.11 Flood hazard notification – no action taken**

New for this meeting:

- 6. Letter from Princeton Hydro regarding the Readington Township Natural Resource Inventory-Hydraulically Sensitive Areas. – Mr. Ace stated that in reading Dr. Souza's letter, it was clear that the methodology was questioned. Dr. Souza was not in agreement with their**

recommendations. In Dr. Souza’s letter, he did not feel that Readington Township should accept their hydrological sensitive area concepts into our NRI.

- 7. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 50, L. 41- noted, no action taken.**
- 8. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 93, L. 64 – noted, no action taken.**
- 9. Letter from Elizabethtown Gas regarding “SMART” program They are requesting to participate with the EC during functions throughout the year. The EC will follow up with Elizabethtown Gas to obtain more information about their programs. Mr. Foster will write the letter.**
- 10. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 10.01 L. 3 – noted – no Action taken.**
- 11. Letter from State of NJ regarding suspected hazardous substance Notification- 121 Robin Way – noted – no action taken.**
- 12. Letter from State of NJ regarding suspected hazardous substance Notification for 12 Mill Road – noted – no action taken.**
- 13. Letter from State of NJ regarding Wetland LOI withdraw for B. 31, L. 37.02 - noted – no action taken.**

F. Old Business:

- 1. Committee Member projects and interests in 2011'' to set up a discussion for the team - The EC will continue with this discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Foster volunteered to find out when Earth Day is scheduled this year. Well testing will be coming up again in the fall. Last year the EC discussed hosting an environmental event some time during 2011. Ms. Albrecht volunteered to take a lead on the well testing process this year. Also to educate the public as to what type of well test they might need and how to take a water sample. Ms. Tutela also suggested that the public know what they should do with the water test results. Ms. Albrecht felt that articles about the EC should be published on the Township website. Mr. Foster reminded everyone that the EC has been involved with Stream monitoring for many years. Mr. Ace spoke about the information board that was proposed to be erected at the recycling site. Also, he is interested in a “drug disposal” outlet for the community. By next meeting, the assignments and/or projects will be fine-tuned.**
- 2. Natural Resource Inventory-Hydraulically Sensitive Areas, Prepared by Donna Drewes – noted already addressed.**
- 3. Review of Franklin Township Solar Ordinance to enhance Readington’s Solar Ordinance. The township is concern with the implementation of solar panels and wind turbines. There could be a**

problem with neighbors not appreciating the value of looking into a solar array. He suggested that the EC should look at the size of the arrays or the placement of the array. Additionally the maintenance of these facilities. The EC should review adjacent municipalities' ordinances and determine what would be important for our township.

Mr. Foster asked the EC if they had any suggestions at this juncture? Mr. Ace requested a draft and then they will review same.

4. Discussion - Bellemead Associates

Mr. Foster stated that he found an article in the Hunterdon Democrat that was published on February 4, 2011 that described that the meeting listed for February 23, 2011 with the Department of Environmental Protection had been moved to March 25, 2011 beginning @ 5:00 p.m. to take place at the same location previously noted. (Old Turnpike School)

The meeting will accept public comments before renewing a discharge permit that was revoked 4 years ago. A few residents of Tewksbury Township went to the State this week in order to gather more information. They wanted to find out how this petition moved so quickly, without having public input. They also wanted to find out where the NJDEP stood regarding the classification of the streams segment. This information will be shared on February 17, 2011 @6:00 p.m. here at the township municipal building.

One concern is where does Bellemead propose to treat the sewerage. They are expecting 100,000 gallons of effluent per day. It will exit into a segment of the stream that is not classified as C-1. Further downstream, that same waterway is classified as C-1. New information has been obtained since the NJDEP's original review of the stream that could change the classification of this segment of the stream and perhaps upgrade it to C-1.

Ms. Tutela suggested that the EC have someone attend the next meeting and advise everyone as to what the negative impacts might be. Mr. Foster answered that Dr. Souza is already working on this.

What this consists of is the approval by NJDEP of a sewage treatment plant located in Tewksbury Township and discharge it into the stream. The studies indicate that this is a non-sensitive area and therefore will not be injured by 100,000 gallons a day of effluent. Areas of Tewksbury Township are protected by the Highlands and therefore different rules apply.

Mr. Kelly made a motion that the EC should contact Dave Peifer, Highlands Project Manager of ANJEC and ask for assistance immediately. Mr. Ace seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

A formal response from the EC must be submitted to Township Committee which in turn they will submit a declaration to the State no later than March 25, 2011.

- 5. By-Laws for EC – Mr. Foster refreshed everyone’s memory about the conversation relating to the By-Laws. Basically the document would address absenteeism, resignation of member that has multiple unexcused absents; the number of EC meetings per year; and what constitutes a quorum. This matter will be addressed at an upcoming meeting.**

G Educational Opportunities

None

H. 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

I. Publications

None

J. Minutes

**Board of Adjustment – sent via email - noted
Planning Board – sent via email – noted**

K. Soil Conservation Reports

None

L. Public Comment

No members of the public present this evening.

M. Adjournment

Mr. Ace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Ms. Tutela seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted.