

Environmental Commission Meeting

Minutes

May 17, 2011

A. Open Meeting

Meeting is called to order at 7:34 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:

Judy Tutela

Jay Kelly

Jason Giroud

Steve Foster, Chair

Public

None present

B. Minutes:

1. March 1, 2011 - Jay Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes. Judy Tutela seconded the motion. All in favor, no Nays recorded.
2. May 3, 2011 – carried to the next meeting.

C. LOI/Freshwater Wetlands

None

D. Correspondence:

1. No further action letter from State of NJ regarding Rt. 31- *noted*
2. Letter from PSE&G “exemption” for project – *noted* – *Mr. Kelly didn't feel that this correspondence was relevant to Readington Township since we are not located in the Highlands; however, his opinion was that he did not feel they should be granted an exemption. Their activities could be a detriment to the Highlands. The EC will write their concerns and forward same to PSE&G.*
3. Letter from State of NJ regarding suspected hazardous substance for 86 Woodchurch Road. *noted*

E. Old Business:

1. Stream monitoring discussion – *reminder, the training will be held this Saturday. The Chairman recommended that if anyone has not completed the training, to please participate. The training is very worthwhile and interesting. Judy Tutela is planning on taking the training on Saturday. She will inquire if the South Branch will implement a training day for Boy Scouts.*
2. C-1 Petition status – *Mr. Foster stated that the EC is actively intending to re-submit the application to petition the State to classify the stream to a C-*

I status classification. In order to do this, they have to make sure that Tewksbury Township is in full support.

3. *Update recycling sign – The DPW is still working with the EC on this project. Nothing new to report.*
4. *Green Team Status – Mr. Foster informed everyone that he attended the Green Team meeting last week. The Township is certified in terms of Environmental Sustainable Communities. The Green Team will be investigating solar energy. There were also people from the school system present during this meeting who are interested in participating in township programs. The EC could invite these participants to our meetings, or in the alternative the EC could attend their meetings. Jay Kelly updated the EC that the Open Space Commission is interested in reaching out to land owners, especially those who own properties adjacent to town owned open space. There are numerous individuals who are impacting the open space by encroaching into the open space property. For example, residents are mowing the grass and claiming the area as their own. In other cases they are dumping mulch materials or grass clippings, or even concrete scrapes onto the property. Trees are being cut down in some cases. Rather than going through Code Enforcement, the township wanted to be diplomatic about it and distribute information to all residents so they are aware of the restrictions within the Open Space property. The Open Space Commission's decision was to create a newsletter and distribute the information to the residents.*

John Klotz from the Open Space Commission is requesting that the EC focus on a hard copy newsletter to help disseminate information to the residents. Steve Foster stated that he would reach out to the Green Team for their participation as well.

Mr. Kelly informed everyone that he was not clear if this was intended to be a regular newsletter distribution or if they want to have a generic newsletter. An email broadcast could be an environmentally friendly tool. At the next meeting, they will try to have someone from the committee to address the EC on this matter. Jason and Steve volunteered to work with the township prior to the next meeting. John Klotz will be notified by Steve Foster as to the impact of his letter and the strategy planned by the EC.

5. *Webpage update – The EC is concerned as to what is allowed and what is discouraged information that might be placed on the township's website. The secretary will inquire.*
6. *2010 Stormwater Annual Report status – no comment.*
7. *By-Laws for EC – Judy Tutela stated that she has researched the ordinance for the EC. The EC was established to serve the Township Committee. The by-laws would help the commission run more smoothly with requiring participation from most of the members. In years past, there were some seats held, and those persons were not active. The by-laws could help the EC's members to become more active. Judy Tutela felt that just by asking a member*

if their lifestyle would allow participation would be a helpful tool when considering a new member. This is not an issue at this point. The members determined, that they will respond via email whether or not they can make the meeting.

Miscellaneous – *Jay Kelly stated that the Upper Raritan Watershed Association is having their first Bio Bliz on Saturday, May 21, 2011. This will be held at the Fairview Farm Preserve. They are looking for members of the public to participate by helping to identifying plants, birds, fish, insects, fungi and other organisms that they find at the preserve in order to create an inventor..*

F Educational Opportunities

None

G. Site Plan Review and Comment

PLANNING BOARD – HEARING FILES

None

PLANNING BOARD – COMPLETENESS FILES

1. Earle S. Ashton, III
Block 10.01, L. 1
Lot line adjustment
Action date: June 16, 2011 *Noted, no action taken.*
2. Hassan Nahvi
Block 39, L. 3
Preliminary Major Site Plan
Action date: June 18, 2011 *Noted, no action taken.*

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – HEARING FILES

None

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – COMPLETENESS FILES

None

H Publications

None

Minutes – May 17, 2011

I. Minutes

Board of Adjustment – sent via email
Planning Board – sent via email

J. Soil Conservation Reports

None

K. Public Comment

L. Adjournment

- Mr. Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Mrs. Tutela seconded the motion. All in favor, no nays recorded.

Respectfully submitted,