

Environmental Commission Meeting

Minutes

February 7, 2012

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 have been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised. **Meeting called to order at 7:35.**

**Members present:**

Christina Albrecht

Frank Ace, Vice Chairman

Judy Tutela

Jerry Cook – arrived at 8:05 p.m.

Jason Giroud

Steve Foster, Chair

**Public**

Molly Crowther – Molly may be interested in joining the EC in the future.

B. Minutes:

1. January 18, 2012 – Judy Tutela made a motion to approve the minutes. All in favor.

D. LOI/Freshwater Wetlands - None

E. Correspondence: copies sent via email – **all noted.**

1. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 19, L. 3 “No further Action Letter”

2. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 62, L. 1 “No further Action Letter”

3. Letter from Van Cleef Engineering Assoc., regarding B. 75, L. 19 “Treatment Works approval application

F. Old Business:

1. Revised EC 2011 TRC coverage schedule (see previously transmitted schedule) **noted**

2. Committee Member projects and interests in 2012" update – a plant sale in the spring promoting alternative plants rather than invasive species could be organized. A letter could be forwarded to local landscapers. Steve Foster stated that the New Jersey Association of Landscapers and Architects belong to organizations that meet annually. He stated that the landscapers have been made aware of the alternative plantings. He suggested that a reminder would be that when they work in Readington, to think native non-invasive species. Christina Albrecht suggested placing an article in the Readington News by March. The EC website could also be mentioned in the article. There were some suggestions about holding a Saturday seminar to help educate the community. Steve Foster volunteered to create a draft article and will distribute it shortly to all of the members for their review.

Frank Ace stated that he will be updating the kiosk at the recycling center. It could include a list of native plants or any other topic, including information on batteries.

3. Update on Logging Bill – This is postponed until March 8, 2012.

4. Projects to maintain Sustainable Communities Status for 2012 - Steve Foster stated that the County Earth Day turnout for the last two years was approximately 400 families. This year, the event will be moved to West Amwell, at the county fairgrounds. They are concerned that since the event will be moved, how many Readington residents will attend. However, by the EC participating in the event, they will be awarded points to help maintain their certification. Steve Foster requested that the EC members keep their calendars open so that they can participate in this occasion. Additionally, the township also will celebrate Earth Day scheduled for April 22. By participating at this event, the EC will receive additional points to help maintain the Wastewater Management Sustainable Communities certification. Another event that the EC participates in is the Memorial Day Parade.

Projects – ANJEC grant. Steve Foster stated that he spoke with the administrator about applying for grants. The project that he felt they should work on is “environmental easements.” The grant would have to be in the amount of \$5,000. Steve Foster explained the procedures that would be required to compile a list of the easements within the township. Frank Ace stated that he did make a request with the township if there was another project the township would be interested in the EC pursuing. There were no other projects mentioned. Once the easement data is complete, it will have to be updated to keep it current. The Tax Assessor’s Office will have to provide most of the data.

Bellemead Project. Frank Ace stated that he and others attended a Township Committee meeting in Tewksbury where they discussed this construction. He stated that Tewksbury is not signed up to be a part of the Highlands. They are situated in the southern area of the Highlands area. If they did become a part of the Highlands, they would have another layer of legal protection and this would help combat the Bellemead project. There is resistance to join the Highlands among the governing body members. This matter will be carried to Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Frank Ace requested that everyone show their presence again supporting Tewksbury's decision to join the Highlands.

5. TRANSCO – The EC would like to know have more information about the proposed installation of a new line. The clerk will be notified to provide the EC with a file if it exists.

G Educational Opportunities

ANJEC – training for new EC members. Frank Ace recommended that everyone attend.

H. Site Plan Review and Comment

PLANNING BOARD – HEARING FILES

None

PLANNING BOARD – COMPLETENESS FILES PENDING

1. Investors Savings Bank  
Final Site Plan  
Block 89, Lot 1  
Action date: March 11, 2012

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – HEARING FILES –

1. 21 County Line Road, LLC &  
Precision Graphics, Inc.  
Use Variance  
21 County Line Road  
B. 39, L 58.01

Action date: May 12, 2012 – Steve Foster informed everyone that the only issue is that there is no noise pollution. The transformers do emit a low droning noise.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – COMPLETENESS FILES PENDING

None

I. Publications

None

J. Minutes

Board of Adjustment  
Planning Board

K. Soil Conservation Reports

None

L. Public Comment

M. Adjournment – Steve Foster made a motion to adjourn. (He commended Frank Ace on standing in for him during his convalescence) Christina Albrecht seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,