

Environmental Commission Meeting
Minutes

January 15, 2013

A. Open Meeting- Meeting is called to order at 7:31 p.m. and it is announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

Members Present:

Christina Albrecht

Steve Foster

Judy Tutela

Jason Giroud

Jerry Cook

B. Reappointed members

Stephen Foster - One year

Jerry Cook – (Planning Board Liaison) Three years

Jason Giroud – Three years

C. Minutes:

1. May 15, 2012 – prepared by Steve Foster

2. June 5, 2012 - prepared by Steve Foster

3. September 4, 2012 prepared by Steve Foster

4. October 2, 2012 – Judy Tutela made a motion to approve the minutes Jason Giroud seconded the motion. Jerry Cook abstained. All in favor. No nays recorded.

D. LOI/Freshwater Wetlands B. 17, L. 1 *Noted – no action taken*

E. Correspondence:

1. Memo from Robert O'Brien regarding Readington Farms *Noted no action taken. This was forwarded to the Board of Health. Christina Albrecht discussed this letter at the last Board of Health meeting. They determined that the Sewer Authority will follow up. There was nothing that the*

Board of Health could do. It was determined to let the public know if they continue to experience an odor from the facility, they should call the township. The EC will stay close as events move forward.

2. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 93, L. 13 *Noted, no action taken.*

3. Letter from EMA regarding B. 39, L. 58 *Noted, no action taken*

4. Letter from State of NJ regarding an underground heating tank *Noted, no action taken*

5. Letter from State of NJ regarding B. 17, L. 21 *Noted, no action taken*

F. New Business: ANJEC 2013 Membership Dues *Jerry Cook made a motion to approve payment of the 2013 ANJEC Membership Dues. Jason Giroud seconded the motion. All in favor, no Nays recorded. Noted, no action taken.*

G Educational Opportunities

1. ANJEC Harvesting the Rain: Reducing Runoff with Green Infrastructure scheduled for Thursday January 24, 7 to 9:30 Bordentown. *Steve Foster recommended that everyone who can attend should attend. It will be an informative seminar.*

H. Site Plan Review and Comment

PLANNING BOARD – HEARING FILES –

1. Rocco Paternostro Hearing date January 28, 2013
Block 36, L. 7

Preliminary Major Subdivision *Noted, no action taken. Jerry Cook did not participate in the review of this application due to a recusal.*

PLANNING BOARD – COMPLETENESS FILES None
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – HEARING FILES –

1. Ryland Office Park, LLC/Walgreens
Minor subdivision/lot line adjustment
Block 8, L (s) 4, 5, 6, & 7
Action date: January 18, 2013 *Noted, no action taken*
2. Red 7 Enterprises, LLC
547 Rt. 22 East
Variance
Action Date: March 15, 2013 *Noted- the EC was concerned about lighting issues, and perhaps some vegetation issues.*

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – COMPLETENESS FILES

1. John M. Cunha
Variance
B. 32, L. 9
Action date: February 4, 2013 *Noted*
2. Readington Commons
Variance
B. 4, L. 51
Action date: February 18, 2013 *Noted*

I. Publications

Green Table – sponsored by the Raritan Headwaters Association. *This is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at the Clarence Dillon Public Library. This information will be circulated to the Township Committee.*

J. Minutes

Board of Adjustment
Planning Board

K. Soil Conservation Reports

None

L. Public Comment – No public present. *Jerry Cook spoke about the extremely large expansion of the building on Van Pelt Road. He stated that this type of building expansion has to be considered inconsistent with Township commitments to maintain the rural look and feel of the community. The ordinance has to be changed so that this does not happen again. He recommended that the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board members be made aware of the huge building expansion. Nevertheless, the building square footage is allowed at the present time under out ordinance.*

The Trail restoration day's list has been sent to John Klotz. They're waiting to hear back if these dates are acceptable. In addition, the streams have been hit hard due to the hurricane. Mr. Foster stated the stream beds appear to be eroding. The soil in this area is thin due to the amount of shale. He asked the EC if there was anything that they could do in order to identify the issue of the streams welfare. Is there a way that someone monitors the impact to the streams? They may need chainsaws, front loaders, man hours, etc. He was not sure how to go about getting the help and asked the EC members if they had suggestions. Jason Giroud suggested that the Raritan Headwaters could be a resource for the EC to find guidance. Jerry Cook volunteered to bring this matter up at the next Township Committee meeting. Judy Tutela suggested that the EC have a

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“stream cleanup day”. Mr. Foster will contact the Raritan Headwaters to find out suggestions on how to proceed. If other EC members have ideas, please share the thought with everyone so that it can be brought up at the next Township Committee meeting.

The Township continues street curb tree trimming. Mr. Foster observed that the Readington Township employees are dedicated to quality work and might benefit from additional professional training in this area. He asked for a proposal to make available some of the EC’s 2013 budget to support one or two of the DPW’s employees attending a professional tree trimming one day course at Rutgers University in order that the crews have the best possible practices and skills available. Jerry Cook made a motion that the EC make a recommendation to the Township Committee that the employees trimming the trees within the municipality receive tree trimming training, and if need be, funding could be taken from the EC’s budget. Christina Albrecht seconded the motion. All in favor, no Nays recorded. Mr. Foster will bring the proposal to the DPW for consideration and support.

The School Board Green Team met in November. Steve Foster received an invitation to attend the next meeting on January 24th. Mr. Foster asked if Jerry Cook if he would volunteer and attend the meeting. Mr. Cook agreed to represent the EC at that meeting.

Adjournment – Jerry Cook made a motion at 8:50 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Judy Tutela seconded the motion. All in favor, No Nays recorded.

Respectfully submitted,