

Environmental Commission Meeting
Minutes

June 4, 2013

A. Meeting was called to order at 7:41 p.m. and it was announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act were met and that the meeting had been duly advertised.

Members present:

Christina Albrecht

Judy Tutela

Jason Giroud

Jerry Cook

Steve Foster, Chair

Public – William Flynn

B. Minutes:

1. May 7, 2013 - approved. All in favor, No Nays recorded.

C. LOI/Freshwater Wetlands - None

D. Correspondence:

1. NJ Department of Environmental Protection Freshwater Wetlands *Noted*

2. State of NJ Flood Hazard Permit for Route 22 *Noted*

3. State of NJ site remediation – heating oil *Noted*

4. State of NJ site remediation – heating oil *Noted*

5. State of NJ remediation for underground storage tank system *Noted*

6. Email notification regarding Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line hearing
Noted

7. Resolutions from Princeton and Readington Township regarding Transco Pipeline Project impact - *Noted*

E. New Business:

1. Invitation to Raritan Headwaters Aqua Ball 2013 *Noted*

F. Educational Opportunities

- Summary of Earth Day 2013 and Parade Day/Township Day 2013 exhibits
Noted

G. Site Plan Review and Comment

PLANNING BOARD – HEARING FILES – June 10, 2013

1. Rocco Paternostro

Block 36, L. 7

Preliminary Major Subdivision *No action taken*

PLANNING BOARD – COMPLETENESS FILES None

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – HEARING FILES – June 20, 2013

1. Ryland Office Park, LLC/Walgreens

Minor subdivision/lot line adjustment

Block 8, L (s) 4, 5, 6, & 7 *No action taken*

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – COMPLETENESS FILES

H. Publications

None

I. Minutes

Board of Adjustment

Planning Board

J. Soil Conservation Reports

None

- K. Public Comment - Read into the minutes comments from resident Ms. Kim Yousey concerning the Transco Pipeline Expansion Project.

The following comments are hereby incorporated into the June 4, 2013 meeting. No official meeting was convened for lack of a quorum on May 21, 2013. However at that meeting Kim Yousey, a Readington resident, wanted to express her concerns for the proposed Transco/Williams Leidy Southeast Expansion Pipeline Project which would run through Readington Township on a path approximately parallel to Pleasant Run Road from Route 202 past Route 523 passing through the Stickney Farmstead and on to the border of Clinton Township.

Ms. Yousey expressed concern that the completed project would further encourage the practice of fracking for new supplies of natural gas and further put New Jersey residents at risk for potential disposal of the toxic waste by-products used in the fracking process.

She was concerned that the new installation of a 42 inch pipe during the expansion project would lead to the decommissioning and abandonment of the two 21 inch pipes currently in the gas pipeline utility right-of-way. Ms. Yousey wanted to know what contingencies existed for the township to assure that if Transco did decommission the existing the old pipes they would remove them and restore the properties. The potential for leaking gas or an explosion from abandoned pipes is a concern. If landowners are left to remove abandoned pipes on their own, the price and the impact on the environment would be substantial.

Further to her concern for the abandonment of the older 2 pipes, she said she thought that Transco/Williams would only test- using a Pipeline Inspection Gauge or PIG -the new 42 inch pipe after installation is complete and would not test/verify that no damage had been done to the original two 21 inch pipes. She felt that it was essential that the township be assured that the original pipes would be inspected after the project was completed.

A third area of concern was the impact of the staging “camps” where the heavy machinery and supplies are held at different points along the path of the project. The site selection for these areas can significantly impact the habitat and recover of those spaces.

Ms. Yousey emphasized the importance of all the Readington residents effected being fully informed and knowledgeable about their options in their negotiations with Transco/Williams for the use and restoration of all property affected. Mr. Foster indicated that Transco/Williams had provided assurances at the April meetings that each landowner would have a coordinator assigned for the duration of the project.

- L. Adjournment Judy Tutela made a motion to adjourn the meeting .Jerry Cook seconded the motion. All in Favor, No Nays recorded.

Respectfully,