

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD  
MINUTES**

**October 25, 2010**

**A. Vice Chairman Duffy *call the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.**

**Attendance:**

<b>Mrs. Allen</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mr. Cook</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mrs. Duffy</b>	<b>present – left at 7:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Mrs. Filler</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mrs. Flynn</b>	<b>absent</b>
<b>Mr. Shamey</b>	<b>absent</b>
<b>Mr. Klotz</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mr. Monaco</b>	<b>present</b>
<b>Mr. Smith</b>	<b>present</b>

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**1. October 12, 2010 Mr. Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cook seconded the motion. *Motion* was carried with a vote of *Ayes all, Nays none recorded. Mrs. Filler abstained.***

**C. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**1. No comments from the board.**

**D. RESOLUTIONS:**

**None**

**E. TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

**None**

**F. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**1. Voucher Approval**

**Mrs. Filler made a motion to approve the vouchers as submitted. Mr. Klotz seconded the motion. *Motion* was carried with a vote of *Ayes all, Nays none recorded.***

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. North Jersey Resource Conservation Development Program presentation**

Vice Chairman Duffy left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The remainder of the meeting was turned over to Cheryl Filler.

Donna Drewes stated that she is affiliated with the New Jersey Resource Conservation Development Program and has been working with the Environmental Commission about a resource protection strategy as part of the township's planning housekeeping.

She distributed a power point presentation. She stated that this program started out with federal funding from the USEPA. The model that she will be discussing was developed and applied across the United States, but primarily in agricultural settings. This makes it easier to prioritize and target lands that our potentially negatively impacting water quality through non-point source pollution.

They received funding for the Rockaway Creek Watershed. They ran this model for Tewksbury, Clinton Township, and Readington Township. The model examines a watershed in a land area and it tries to identify those areas that contain runoff after a storm, and where you would most likely see the soil moving. The model helps municipalities identify lands that are more sensitive along the streams and that vary in their ability to contribute non-point source pollution.

For all of the communities within their study area, they noticed that the steep slope ordinances made a difference. The last two factors included the preservation areas. When they finished mapping out sensitive areas, Readington's ordinance did not protect these areas. There are large sensitive areas where there are soils that don't show up as potential wetlands, but have some of the features related to the soil that as they become saturated there is the ability to transport the pollutant source into the stream.

Therefore, there could be areas that are not protected through any of the township's existing regulatory frameworks. This could potentially negatively impact water quality in Readington Township. They have concluded by this study that 60% of hydrologically sensitive areas are not protected by the existing land use strategies. Ms. Drewes suggested that if Readington is interested going forward, she has the ability to provide additional technical and planning support. She stated that none of the mapping layer areas should be adopted by the township, without having an update to the Natural Resource Inventory or the conservation element of the Master Plan.

Ms. Drewes volunteered to prepare a report if Readington would be interested. The report would explain the model and would indicate how it was derived and why it is important to the township. The second part of the report would explain what the township should change within the planning framework. For example, what to do if an applicant requests relief on the buffering requirement. She would provide a decision matrix so the board would be guided as to how and when it is appropriate to grant such relief.

Ms. Drewes stated that when this started, many communities wanted to know if the model information had been field verified. They actually did field calibrations of the model and the results were consistent.

Mr. Monaco made a motion to have North Jersey Resource Conservation Development Program prepare an element/report draft that will be added to the Natural Resource Inventory or the Conservation Element of the Master Plan. Mrs. Allen seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Mrs. Allen	aye
Mr. Cook	aye
Mrs. Filler	aye
Mr. Klotz	aye
Mr. Monaco	aye
Mr. Smith	aye

#### H. OTHER BUSINESS:

##### 1. Hunterdon County Logging Plan

Mrs. Allen stated that the Hunterdon County Freeholders are proposing to log some of the county parks as a revenue generator. A forest management plan was created for the 106 acres. This area is one of the most impressive hardwood forests in the county. The plan is being created as a sustainable plan and in their opinion would improve forest health. The problem is that for over the last 15 years in Readington Township, forests don't re-generate. If a tree is cut down, there would exist an opening in the canopy. That opening would result in a bloom of invasive species. There is nothing in the plan for re-generation. Mrs. Filler informed everyone that there are several threatened and endangered species on the floor of the forest that would be destroyed.

Mrs. Allen made a motion on behalf of the concerns of the Planning Board that a letter be sent to the Freeholders. Mr. Monaco seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Mrs. Allen	aye
Mr. Cook	aye
Mrs. Filler	aye
Mr. Klotz	aye
Mr. Monaco	aye
Mr. Smith	aye

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Cook made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Mrs. Filler seconded the motion. Motion was carried with a vote of Ayes all, Nays none recorded.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Linda A. Jacukowicz**