

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
August 13, 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Fleck, Mr. Klimek, Mr. Szabo, Mrs. Emmetts, Ms. Ramberg, Mrs. Tracey, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mr. Nystrom, Mr. Branagan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Tracey

Mr. Branagan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the statement that this meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Stillwater Township Environmental Commission. Regular meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the Stillwater Township Municipal Building located in Middletown, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

**Minutes**

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to approve the minutes of July 9, 2012, seconded by Mr. Szabo.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, abstain, Mr. Branagan, yes

**Bills**

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the following bill, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts.

Secretary: \$ 180.25

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:06 p.m.**

**There being no public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:06 p.m.**

**Correspondence:**

**ANJEC:** Special Alert to Environmental Commissions and Governing Bodies Along the PSE&G Susquehanna-Roseland Transmission Line – Meetings to be scheduled with municipalities to discuss concerns with the project

**Dykstra Associates PC:** Notice of NJDEP Application for Block 1501, Lot 12.01

**Old Business**

**Municipal Orchard:**

**Ian Blanchard, 908 Wall Street** provided an outline for the municipal orchard proposal. He referenced the New Jersey State Development/Redevelopment Plan: Statewide Policies - Agriculture, Appendix J; and the Lesniak bill A-2859, which authorizes the sale/lease of unneeded public property. Mr. Branagan stated he, Ian, Brian Blanchard and Mr. Klimek met to discuss the municipal orchard proposal and Ian is interested in the former Rabbit Patch property located in Swartswood State Park as a possible location. Mrs. Emmetts recommended contacting Steve Ellis, Northern Division Superintendent, (former Superintendent of Swartswood State Park), and copying Blanca Chevrestt, current Superintendent of Swartswood State Park, on all discussions Mr. Blanchard spoke about the reasons why Swartswood State Park would want to provide/lease land for a community orchard as follows:

- Compliance with the State Master Plan
- Supports State Redevelopment Plan and the Lesniak Bill HR110
- Expand and support the Park's mission
- Provide a new attraction to the park
- Expanded Agri-Tourism
- Opportunity to provide new offering to the immediate community and surrounding communities at no expense to the park
- New education venue
- Coordinated and shared management of public owned lands
- Creation of new finding opportunities for SSP
- Opportunities for awards and recognition

Mr. Blanchard will be away for the next two EC meetings and will attend the November meeting.

### **Open Space Map/Brochure:**

The EC reviewed the Open Space Map and the following revisions were made and will be forwarded to the Land Conservancy of New Jersey: (LC)

1. Volunteer Park should be listed as Volunteer Field. It also needs to be moved to the area indicated on the map as it is presently in the wrong location. The area currently depicted as Volunteer Park should remain the color it is but it should not be named.
2. This tract is the former Goldschmidt property (114 acres) recently acquired. It should be part of the Trout Brook WMA.
3. The Nature Conservancy property on the border of Hardwick (formerly the Shuler property) is part of the Blair Creek Preserve and should be named as such.
4. This property located under the Blair Creek Preserve property should be depicted as a Conservation Easement (hatched).
5. Camp Lou Henry Hoover has two Conservation Easement areas that need to be added as marked (hatched).
6. Public access area needs to be depicted as marked at Camp Lou Henry Hoover.
7. Conservation Easement needs to be depicted on the property (owned by Cartabona) in the area of Swartswood State Park (hatched)
8. Legend/Key: Add a "No Public Access" under Conservation Easement on the key.
9. Legend/Key: Add a "Public Access" icon to the key.
10. Aldersgate - Conservation Easement (Block 1605, Lot 6) and (Block 3601, Lot 23.01) both have Conservation Easements – please depict this on the maps in the areas indicated (hatch).
11. Fairclough property on Potters Road – Conservation Easement should be extended  
This is Block 3306, Lot 1 and after checking the deeds there appears to be no C/E on this property, map is correct as depicted.

The map will be sent back to the LC for revisions and a final draft will be presented to the Township Committee at their August 21, 2012 meeting. The Open Space Brochure was distributed to the EC for their review and all revisions must be submitted to the secretary no later than Wednesday, August 15, 2012.

**Trail Update:** Mr. Klimek reported the Arctic Meadow trail has been mowed but is not marked. He noted it is a beautiful 2.5 mile hike.

### **No Littering Signs:**

Mr. Branagan stated there are 23 entrances to the township and he questioned if it would be necessary to post a sign at each entrance in order to enforce the ordinance. The sign will include the \$1,000 fine, \$150 reward to anyone reporting littering and the ordinance section to be referenced. Ms. Chamings will follow up with the Township Attorney regarding the posting requirement for the signs with regards to enforcement. Mr. Branagan has obtained pricing on signs but needs to determine how many signs would require posts and hardware which would incur additional costs and an exact number of signs to be installed.

### **No Idling Signs:**

Posters were drawn by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade summer art program students at Stillwater School following a presentation by Mr. Branagan. The posters will be displayed at the Municipal Building and one was chosen to be placed on the bulletin board located in the parking lot. A thank you letter will be sent to the Art Teacher at Stillwater School.

**Tree Cutting Ordinance:** Mr. Branagan would contact the Zoning Officer to discuss specific wording of the ordinance amendment to help with enforcement issues and he will report at the next meeting.

**Sustainable Jersey Update:** No report.

### **Sustainable New Jersey/Agenda 21 Questions/Responses:**

At the last EC meeting, Mr. Szabo provided a packet he compiled regarding his concerns with the relation between Sustainable Jersey and Agenda 21, dated July 9, 2012, including the following:

- Cover Letter to EC Chairperson Jack Branagan
- Attachment #1: Factors to Consider Before Endorsing the “Sustainable Jersey” DEP Programs – 14 questions proposed to Sustainable Jersey by Mr. Szabo
- Attachment #2: Randall Solomon’s responses to Mr. Szabo’s questions in Attachment #1
- Attachment #3: John Anthony – Private Property Rights Defined

The packet was distributed to the EC and members of the public interested. The EC was asked to review the information for discussion at this meeting to determine if the packet should be forwarded on to the Township Committee. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby felt the issue was discussed and it was agreed by the EC to move forward cautiously with the certification process. Ms. Ramberg felt it was made very clear that there is no relation between Sustainable Jersey and Agenda 21. She stated the only real concern is the private property issue, and Ms. Fobes-Jacoby noted the community itself has property regulations that must be adhered to. Ms. Ramberg felt the rebuttal in Attachment #3 contained inaccurate information. Mr. Szabo asked for the information packet to be sent to the Township Committee without Attachment #3. After further consideration and discussion, Mrs. Fleck made a **motion** to send the information packet for Sustainable Jersey/Agenda 21 on to the Township Committee, with the exception of Attachment #3. There was no second and the motion died.

### **New Business**

**Zoning Board of Adjustment:** Site Survey Form Acceptance

**Cellco Partnership,** Block 3101, Lot 13, Cal. No. 578 – Cell Tower: Mr. Branagan/Mr. Szabo  
Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to accept the site survey, seconded by Mr. Branagan.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**Goldberg,** Block 4005, Lot 7, Cal. No. 579 – Sunroom Addition: Mrs. Tracey

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to accept the site survey, seconded by Mr. Branagan.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**ANJEC – PSE&G Notice:** The notice from ANJEC referenced George Sous of PSE&G contacting municipalities to schedule a meeting to discuss concerns with the project. Mr. Sous has not contacted Stillwater at this point. Ms. Chamings will contact PSE&G to inquire if there is a time frame in which to provide comment.

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:29 p.m.**

**Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road** referenced the budget and audit documents and stated the recommendations have not been complied with and he asked the EC and public to inquire as to why. The EC stated the issue is not under the jurisdiction of this Commission.

**Brian Blanchard, 908 Wall Street** referred to the discussion on Aldersgate when reviewing the Open Space Map. He offered to help research the matter. The EC thanked Mr. Blanchard but felt it would not be necessary.

**There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:32 p.m.**

### **Planning Board Liaison Report:**

Mr. Branagan reported the following on the July 2012 Planning Board meeting:

- The Master Plan Re-Examination is continuing.
- The height of agricultural buildings was reviewed and shall not exceed 35 feet for silos, barns, etc.
- A new map will be created depicting Recreation/Conservation areas.
- Discussion was held on amending the cell tower ordinance and developing a solar ordinance.

**Township Liaison Report:** Committeewoman Chammings

Ms. Chammings reported the following:

-The Planning Board discussed solar farms and the inherently beneficial aspect as opposed to the detrimental aspect when farmland is taken away. At this point, arrays and turbines are not permitted on preserved farmland.

-The Recreation/Conservation Zone is still being reviewed.

-Ms. Chammings mentioned Assembly Bill 323, sponsored by Alison McHose, regarding holding events on preserved farmland.

Ms. Chammings and the EC thanked Mr. Klimek for his efforts on the Open Space Map and trails and his work on preserving open space in Stillwater Township.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

---

Jack Branagan, Chairperson