

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 11, 2011**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Klimek, Ms. Ramberg

Mr. Branagan called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 Middleville, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Minutes

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to approve the minutes of June 13, 2011, as amended, seconded by Mr. Nystrom.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Bills

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mr. Szabo:

Secretary \$ 180.25

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:11 p.m. and there being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:11 p.m.

Correspondence: New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Invasives Strike Force Plant Guide 2011 – provided by Mr. Nystrom and distributed to the EC.

Sustainable Jersey Grants:

Mrs. Emmetts reported that Middleton Township received \$10,000 in grant funding for the removal of invasives and this may be something the EC would be interested in pursuing. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reviewed the Sustainable Jersey grant information and stated the EC must actively pursue certification, yet certification is not mandatory in order to apply for a grant. A lengthy discussion followed regarding certification and available grant funding under Sustainable Jersey. A Green Team must be established and a resolution passed by the Township Committee endorsing pursuit of the EC to obtain certification. The certification is based on a point system. The EC discussed having a student or intern from Americorp help with the process. A copy of the grant information was provided to liaison Committeewoman Straway. The EC agreed a resolution should be forwarded to the Township Committee for consideration at their 7/19/11 meeting. Mr. Branagan reported that he will be meeting with Brian Cramer to identify the invasives at Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP) on Tuesday, 7/12/11 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend and he will report at the next EC meeting on the types of invasives found. Mr. Nystrom stated a General Permit 16 would be required to remove or dig out the invasives as opposed to just cutting them down. An NJDEP application would have to be filed. The EC agreed Sustainable Jersey certification should be pursued this year and grant funding applied for next year. Following further discussion, Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to forward a resolution to the Township Committee regarding Sustainable Jersey certification, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Mr. Branagan would notify Mrs. Wunder as to the schedule for the removal of the invasives and she would then forward a letter to the SLAP program requesting their assistance. Mrs. Straway stated she would report on both Sustainable Jersey and the removal of invasives at the Township Committee meeting, no correspondence from the EC would be necessary.

Old Business

Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LC): Mr. Klimek submitted a confidential open space and farmland negotiation report which was distributed to the EC for their review.

Trail Map: In a written report, Mr. Klimek asked the EC to forward a request to the Township Committee asking them to provide authorization for Mr. Vreeland, Township Engineer, to review the sight distance at the parking lot location for the trail access on Owassa Road. A lengthy discussion was held on this matter to clarify the appropriate jurisdiction for the matter. Mrs. Emmetts felt the Township Engineer could determine if the area meets the specifications to be used as a parking area. Following the discussion, the EC authorized Mrs. Wunder to contact Mr. Vreeland to determine if he could be involved with the matter and if so, what the fee would be. If Mr. Vreeland agrees it would fall under his jurisdiction to review the sight distance, Mrs. Wunder would contact Mrs. Straway to request Township Committee approval to move forward. The EC reviewed a report submitted by Mr. Klimek regarding trail grant funding to blaze the trail, establish parking, signage and other trail related items. Mrs. Wunder stated that Mr. Klimek had requested the DPW mow the trail once he has marked it. Mrs. Straway indicated the mower is in disrepair and the DPW is having difficulty replacing the parts at this time.

Mastrelli Property: Mr. Branagan and Mr. Szabo would meet with Mr. Klimek to review the property.

Outdoor Woodburning Furnace (OWF) Ordinance Update: Mr. Branagan reported the OWF ordinance was approved by the Planning Board and forwarded to the Township Committee for their consideration. Mr. Branagan noted that if an existing OWF is not in compliance, the new ordinance regulations would apply.

Joint EC Meeting: Mr. Branagan reported that he, Mrs. Emmetts, Mrs. Tracey, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, and Mr. Szabo all attended the meeting held on June 28, 2011 at the Blairstown Municipal Building. He was very happy with the EC representation. Mr. Branagan noted that Mr. Hofer had indicated that not all water testing items are necessary and he would review our testing parameters to see if any could be eliminated, decreasing the cost and possibly allowing for annual testing. Mr. Szabo suggested supplying a copy of the parameters to Mr. Nystrom for his opinion.

Recycling Signs: Mrs. Straway addressed the issue at the last Township Committee meeting and also spoke with the recycling liaison Committeeman Gross and Recycling Coordinator Keith Whitehead, as well as Brian Hendershot, DPW Supervisor. She could not confirm that the signs have been changed. Mrs. Wunder would follow-up to see it has been addressed.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP) Invasive Species: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

New Business

Sustainable Jersey Grants: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Planning Board Application:

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to accept the site survey for Fischer, Block 2701, Lot 14.07, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:06 p.m.

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road stated he has been conducting research on woodburning stoves and an association has passed legislation establishing stringent rules and colored smoke is not permitted at all. He stated the EC may want to review the legislation prior to the ordinance being passed. He will try to locate the information and email it to Mr. Branagan for distribution to the EC. Mr. Szabo agreed if there is new legislation that may affect the ordinance, the EC should follow-up.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:11 p.m.

Planning Board Report:

Mr. Branagan reported on the Planning Board meeting of 6/15/11 as follows:

- Fischer application, Block 2701, Lot 14.07 was deemed complete.
- A discussion was held on government owned lands, commercial zones and stormwater management.
- The amended accessory structure ordinance was approved, forwarded to the Township Committee for their consideration and adopted.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Straway

Mrs. Straway suggested contacting other municipalities for information on their pursuit of Sustainable Jersey certification, grant funding and the overall process.

Mrs. Straway reported that a solar energy presentation by Sun Ray would be provided at Stillwater School on 7/18/11 at 7 p.m. and at the Municipal Building on 7/19/11 at 8 p.m. . The proposal would be a joint venture between the school and the municipality to reduce energy costs and all are encouraged to attend.

Commission Member Report:

Mr. Branagan reported a wood turtle sighting on Old Schoolhouse Road on 6/28/11. The wood turtle is a threatened species.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m., seconded by Mr. Szabo. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

Next Meeting: August 8, 2011