

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 12, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Szabo, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mrs. Branagan, Mr. Branagan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Tracey, Mrs. Fleck, Mr. Blanchard, Mrs. Emmetts

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 Middleville, New Jersey. The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Minutes

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 11/10/14, seconded by Mr. Branagan.

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

Bills

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mrs. Branagan:

Secretary:	\$ 198.90
ANJEC 2015 Membership:	\$ 340.00

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

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:12 p.m. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:12 p.m.

Correspondence:

-NJDEP Application Notice: Block 2501, Lot 29, 1035 Fairview Lake Road, YMCA – General Permit

-Byram Township Environmental Commission – Resolution to New Jersey Senate Environment and Energy Committee – Public Question No. 2

-Ordinance 2015-001 (Draft) – Environmental Commission Members – **Reorganization to be held on February 9, 2015**

-CFO: 2014 Budget Status as of 11/16/14

-Farms, Forests and Rivers: Sustaining Our Way of Life – 1/28/15, 10 a.m-3 p.m., Sussex County Fairgrounds

-Freshwater Review of Fisheries @ Hackettstown Fishery, 1/24/15, 10 a.m.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the Green Team is pursuing silver certification and meeting to determine the actions. The Green Team will hold a workshop(s) at Stillwater Day, Fall Fest, and Clean Up Day. Other activities will include paper shredding, prescription drug drop-off, listing of brownfields; and they may also work in conjunction with other municipalities.

Paulinskill River Clean Up:

The project is on hold until the spring. Mr. Branagan was in contact with QC Labs regarding the water testing report and data on trash collected from the river. He will provide a list of parameters for the sites indicating what level is safe once it is obtained.

The following interim report was submitted:

Municipality: Stillwater

County: Sussex

Grant Award Amount: \$10,000
Submitted on: 12/10/2014
Report Prepared By: Sara Branagan – Data Collector/Reporter
Title: Paulinskill Watershed Clean-up
Address: 964 Stillwater Road Newton NJ 07860
Phone: (973) 383-9484
Email: clerk@stillwatertwp.com

Project Description: Stillwater Township's Paulinskill Watershed Clean-up aims to coordinate local volunteers to remove trash and debris from the river and its tributaries. Educational opportunities will occur after completing multiple phases of the river clean-up. Presentations will be made about the importance and effectiveness of river clean-ups. The aim of these presentations is to educate and motivate towns upstream and downstream from the current site with the hopes of promoting future clean ups in the surrounding municipalities. These presentations will occur during the 2015 calendar year.

Status Report: Please summarize the efforts that have taken place to complete the project described above. If the project has multiple tasks/objectives/deliverables as outlined in the proposal consider organizing the report by each of these areas. Mention any changes to the original project since the application was submitted including changes to deliverables, timeline, or budget:

Most of the actions outlined in the proposed timeline for the Paulinskill River clean-up were completed during the first 6 months after receiving the grant.

Outline of Actions:

SPRING 2014

Community wide volunteer sign-up held on Earth Day at the recycling center coinciding with Stillwater Clean-up Day April 26th.

Press release to New Jersey Herald March 29th.

Announcement made at Sussex County Water Quality PAC meeting April 10. Mailer sent to land owners on the Paulinskill River to invite participation May 27th.

Volunteer meeting held at Town Hall to delegate team leaders and other positions and responsibilities June 5th.

Volunteer training and boating safety meeting held at Veterans Memorial Park June 21st.

Paulinskill Clean-up update added to the agenda of monthly Environmental Commission and Green Team meetings.

SUMMER 2014

2nd volunteer sign-up and outreach held at Veterans Memorial Park during Stillwater Day, June 21st.

Area director training (6 dates between June 5th and June 26th)

Survey of river's hazards and dumping sights.

Documentation of wildlife found in and on the river.

Meeting with nature conservancy to discuss endangered species and possible stream bank restoration June 2nd.

41 township volunteers removed 4 truckloads of trash and recyclables from the river between Paulinskill lake road and Main Street - June 28th.

12 Fairview Lake YMCA campers and counselors helped remove 10 additional bags of trash from Saddleback Road fishing access July 14th.

2 additional river surveys were completed with trash and tires removed along the lower 3 sections of the river in August. There continues to be a noticeable difference in the beauty of the river since the larger items have been removed.

One additional trip was made with area directors and volunteers in late August, to remove 19 tires from the lowest section of the river.

Volunteers worked to separate 812 lbs. of refuse of which 616 lbs. were recycled. In addition, a total of over 30 tires were collected and will be properly disposed of.

After thorough documentation, the production of an educational video has begun. Educational presentation completion is expected in Spring of 2015.

AUTUMN 2014

220 lbs. of *Mixed Ridged Plastic* was sent to Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) for recycling.

To date, more than 50 volunteers have come out to participate in the clean-up and attended meetings to discuss our progress. The participation of the community has really been far reaching along with getting down in the water and removing litter and other trash. Volunteers have engaged the surrounding community of land owners, fisherman, bathers, and boaters in a dialog about the clean-up which may prove to be the most effective form of outreach.

It is important to note that most of the trash we have been finding falls into one of a few categories: inflatables/toys, bottles, or tires and scrap. Plastic bottles make up the bulk of litter everywhere as they easily get blown or washed down stream. It would seem that inflatables and toys are an unavoidable and unfortunate consequence of people enjoying the river and although these items are rarely recyclable, they are easy to remove. The tires and scrap are all very old; some items have been in the river for decades. It appears most of the major dumping in the river occurred a long time ago. Today, much of this kind of dumping has decreased considerably. By removing the larger items, the beauty of the environment has been enhanced and hopefully should remain so for years to come. This has been a very positive learning experience in regards to the safest and easiest way to help keep our rivers clean. These lessons will be passed on in our presentation to surrounding communities.

Due to the success of volunteer outreach, it has been discussed to hold an annual local clean-up event. It has also been discussed, based on Stillwater's success to extend the river clean-up to involve bordering communities both above and below the Stillwater section of the Paulinskill River. Although these plans will ultimately be independent of this grant, the current project will serve as a template for future clean-up projects.

Moving forward, in order to complete the project proposed by the grant we have only a few steps to finish. There are 2 branches of the river between Saddle Back road and Main Street that are known to have tires dumped. The tires will be removed in the spring when the water is high enough in order to gain access with a canoe. We also have presentations to prepare and deliver and a short film that will accompany said presentations. Additionally, we plan to create a map detailing the natural and historic features of the river to be made available to the public via the township.

Trash weight totals:

Scrap metal	218 lbs
Aluminum	30 lbs
Plastic bottles	30 lbs
Glass	111 lbs
Card board	7 lbs
Mixed ridged plastic	220 lbs
Misc. trash	307 lbs
Total	812 lbs

Tires:

During the 2nd phase of the river clean-up, a total of 33 tires were pulled out of the Paulinskill River.

Weight is approximately 495 lbs. (@15 lbs/tire, no rim) A disposal fee still pending as of this submission.



T-Shirt worn by volunteers and Area Directors of the Paulinskill River Clean-up. Dragonfly depicted on front of shirt is the Brook Snaketail dragonfly-indigenous to the Paulinskill River and is listed as a species of special concern in New Jersey.

Report Attachments: Expenditures to date; Photos of river clean-up

Sustainable Jersey Grant

2014 Expenditures

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount	Balance
				\$10,000.00
5/1/2014	The Printing Center	Vinyl Banner	\$90.00	\$9,910.00
6/2/2014	Stillwater Twp - Gen. Admin.	Postage	\$6.72	\$9,903.28
6/30/2014	Von Schroder	Stipend - Area Director/Videographer	\$200.00	\$9,703.28
6/30/2014	David Carter	Stipend - Area Director (10 hrs @ \$10/hr)	\$100.00	\$9,603.28
6/30/2014	Tom Gardner - Entertainment	T-Shirts (50 shirts @ \$10/shirt)	\$500.00	\$9,103.28
	Screen Printing			
7/9/2014	Derek Connor	T-Shirt Design	\$150.00	\$8,953.28
7/9/2014	Jack Branagan	Stipend - Area Director (20 hrs @ \$10/hr)	\$200.00	\$8,753.28
10/27/2014	Jack Branagan	Mileage - Trash Disposal (36 mi @ \$.55/mi)	\$19.80	\$8,733.48
11/12/2014	Ian Blanchard	Stipend - Project Director (80 hrs @ \$10/hr)800.00	\$800.00	\$7,933.48
11/19/2014	Matt Lifschultz	Stipend - Area Director (10 hrs @ \$10/hr)	\$100.00	\$7,833.48

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Branagan
Data Collector/Reporter

Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) Recycling Receptacle:

A location for placement of the shed needs to be designated by the Recreation Commission. Portions of the shed were broken when it was moved at the Recycling Center. Ms. Chamings will determine if the shed is still usable or if it needs to be repaired.

Mixed Rigid Plastics (MRP):

This item will be added to the next agenda to re-address with the Township Committee.

Energy Articles: Articles were provided by Mr. Szabo for review by the EC.

ERI Update: Threatened and Endangered Species (Flora/Fauna)

Mrs. Wunder will contact Barbara Davis of the Land Conservancy for a quote. The EC determined it should not exceed \$500.00; which is the amount requested for the ERI in the 2015 budget worksheet submitted for approval. The Land Conservancy portion will cost \$250.00.

Stream Water Testing: Mrs. Wunder updated the Stream Water Testing Map including sites #8 and #9 and a copy was provided to the EC members.

2014 Annual Report:

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to forward the 2014 Annual Report, as amended, to the Township Committee, seconded by Mr. Szabo as follows:

**Stillwater Township Environmental Commission
Annual Report 2014**

During the course of 2014, the Stillwater Township Environmental Commission engaged in the following activities:

Met during the course of the year in the Municipal Building and entertained public comment.

Walked properties to evaluate them for the Planning/Zoning Boards.

Prepared an annual budget.

Worked with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey on the acquisition of open space properties.

Maintained membership in ANJEC.

Accepted the resignation of Michael Nystrom and up-graded Kathy Fobes-Jacoby to regular member. Ian Blanchard and Sara Branagan were named as alternates.

Commission members generated an “Amphibian Crossing” survey.

Participated in Stillwater Day.

Participated in Clean-Up Day.

Worked with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey on an up-dated Environmental Resource Inventory.

Collected used monofilament fishing lines from receptacles for recycling.

The Commission participated in the Sustainable New Jersey program earning a Bronze Certification. In this connection a Green Team Recycling flyer was created and distributed. A Green Fest was held on September 7, 2014 at the Fairview Camp. A Green Team webpage was created.

An Anti-Idling Resolution was recommended to the Township Committee and adopted.

Application was made to ANJEC for a riparian restoration grant.

A Tree Cutting Ordinance was submitted to the Township Committee and adopted on April 15, 2014.

The Committee suggested repurposing the old shed from the Recycling Center for use as a recycling deposit at Veterans Memorial Park.

Committee members monitored an oil spill on Rt. 94

Littering/Dumping Fines Ordinance Amendment submitted to the Township Committee.

Currently working on recommended revisions to the Recycling Ordinance.

Conducted biennial water test of all streams which enter Stillwater Township.

Participated in the Paulins Kill River Clean-Up Project and hosted a presentation by Colin Campbell of Fairview Lake YMCA. Designed and purchased tee shirts which were distributed to participants in the clean-up. A half a ton of debris was removed from the river.

The water testing site map was updated to include testing sites # 8 – Keen’s Mill, Route 521, just before the falls; and #9 – Paulinskill River just after the falls, in the spillway.

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

2015 Meeting Dates: The proposed meeting dates were distributed to the EC for their review.

Fishing Line Receptacles – Collection

The collected fishing line will be mailed by Mrs. Wunder to:

Berkley Recycling

1900 18th Street

Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

New Business:

DPW Shed: The Township Committee asked the EC to conduct a site inspection of the location at the DPW property for the temporary shed. The shed will be used to store QP, mulch, grit and salt and will be three-sided, approximately 20' x 24'. It will have an impervious coverage with concrete block, QP base with asphalt. The site inspection will determine if the location is satisfactory and that there are no environmental concerns. Mr. Branagan and Mr. Szabo will conduct the visit and will contact the DPW Supervisor prior to doing so. The area will be staked out.

Zoning Board application:

Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to accept the following site survey report, seconded by Mr. Szabo: Passafaro, Block 801, Lot 8, addition

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

Endangered and Threatened Species:

-Eagle sightings at Route 521 and Maple Avenue

-Bobcat sightings on Millbrook Road

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:03 p.m.

Josh Danesi, 939 Route 619 expressed concern with the strong odor of diesel fuel at the end of his driveway indicating a possible spill or leak in the area. Mr. Danesi will contact the Sussex County Board of Health. He stated that prior water testing results at his property have indicated unknown volatile organic compounds.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:08 p.m.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report:

-Approval was granted for two outdoor wood burning furnaces on the property owned by the Franciscan Missionaries, Hardwick Road.

-The Board Engineer suggested amending the ordinance requiring site plan approval for a conditional use if the conditions have been met. Mr. Szabo suggested a site plan waiver by the Board Engineer if all requirements and conditions have been met.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings

-1/6/15 Reorganization meeting: Mayor Scott/Deputy Mayor Fisher

-Ms. Chammings was sworn in as Committeewoman for a three-year term.

-The following employee positions are available: 1) On-call temporary snow plow operator, experienced with CDL required; 2) Recycling Worker

-Town Hall renovations were discussed and specifications were requested from architect Steven Boshart, landscaping not included. The EC discussed the possibility of a rain garden and other landscaping options.

-Stillwater Township passed a resolution accepting \$162,000 from PSE&G for road repairs. Ms. Chammings would like Hardwick Road, Old Schoolhouse Road, and Pompey Lane to be priorities.

PAC Meeting: Committeewoman Chammings

Ms. Chammings will email the 21-page groundwater recharge survey to Mrs. Wunder for EC distribution. She referred to the Wastewater Management Plan – Stillwater, and asked for clarification on whether or not Aldersgate still owned property in Stillwater. She also noted according to the plan, Mountain Shadows Campground has 271 sites and the school has 415 students, she was unsure if the numbers were accurate.

Lighting Ordinance:

The EC briefly discussed the lighting ordinance and concerns with the lighting at the Municipal Building and DPW properties.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Branagan. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary