

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 8, 2016**

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

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

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

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 1/11/16, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

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

Bills

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

Secretary: \$202.88

NJH: \$6.90

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

No public was present at the meeting.

Correspondence:

- PSE&G – NJDEP Application – emailed 1/14/16
- 2016 Gypsy Moth information – emailed 1/19/16 – map of spraying areas was distributed to EC
- Lynda Knott, RMC – Green Team Line Item – emailed 1/21/16 - \$1,500
- State of New Jersey – Swartswood State Park – Blanca Chevrestt, Paulinskill Riparian Restoration Project approval – emailed 1/28/16
- Email from Nathaniel Sadjak, re: Tree Restoration Project – Paulinskill
- The Record – “Sexual Mutations in Fish in Protected Waters Raise Alarm” – emailed 2/5/16

Old Business

Sustainable New Jersey (SJ):

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the Green Team meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled for later this month. Funding uses are being considered and discussion includes the following:

- Removal and replacement of invasives with native plants at Veteran’s Memorial Park (VMP)
- Native plantings along the rear of the Municipal Building parking lot
- Working toward obtaining points – energy and vehicle audits

Sustainable Jersey – cont'd:

-Other actions

-Native plants as a community outreach

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported a Shredding Day will be held in conjunction with Clean Up Day on April 23rd at the Recycling Center at no cost to residents. Free tree seedlings will be distributed.

Paulinskill River Tree Restoration Project:

A letter was received from Blanca Chevrestt, Swartswood State Park, indicating approval was granted to restore the riparian buffer along a section of the Paulinskill River owned by the State. An email was received from Nathaniel Sadjak in response to the letter, commending Mr. Blanchard on his work in obtaining the approval and planning for the implementation of the project in the spring.

Fishing Line Receptacles:

Receptacle collection will resume in April.

Recycling:

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to forward a letter to Renee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator, SCMUA, asking her to attend the March 14, 2016 EC meeting to provide a recycling presentation, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

The letter will be copied to the following: Mr. Whitehead, Recycling Coordinator; Mr. Hendershot, DPW Supervisor; Brandon Morgan, Recycling Center; and Mayor Fisher, Recycling Center Liaison.

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

Mr. Szabo reported that E-Waste is no longer accepted at the Recycling Center or SCMUA as it is not financially viable.

EC Newsletter:

This item is ongoing as information and articles are submitted.

2016 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant:

Mr. Carbone and Mr. Blanchard have been working on the grant and unfortunately, the trail along Saddleback Road would require NJDEP approval that could take up to 90 days to obtain, exceeding the grant deadline. Ms. Chamming suggested open space habitat enhancement on the existing trails at VMP, both active and passive sides. The EC agreed, noting the trails could be improved with plantings, possibly butterfly bushes; installation of birdhouses, signage and a boardwalk. Ms. Chamming will research the approvals necessary to see if the April 1st deadline can be met. It may be possible to do the project in phases. Mr. Branagan suggested installing blinds and Mr. Szabo offered to assist in their construction. Mr. Carbone will walk the area for ideas and he will draft a proposal for the project. Ms. Chevrestt can provide contact information for individuals who install boardwalks to see how it can be done to minimize the effects on the environment.

New Business

Stillwater School Greenhouse Project:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the school did not receive the Lowe's grant for the project and would like to partner with the EC on the ANJEC grant. She has since realized the ANJEC grant is for open space and this would not be feasible.

Amphibian Crossing Survey:

The survey will take place across from Swartswood State Park, usually sometime in March for those interested.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: Jack Branagan

- Celtic Creations resolution was not memorialized due to outstanding items.
- Gypsy Moth Spraying will be conducted.
- Amphibian Crossing was discussed.
- Land Use Board was discussed.

Ms. Chamings reported a joint meeting was held between the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Township Committee regarding the possibility of forming a Land Use Board. The Zoning Board was strongly against merging the boards and the Zoning Chair has asked for a financial analysis.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chamings

- Mr. Carbone and Mr. Blanchard were appointed to PAC.
- An ordinance was adopted no longer recognizing the Swartswood Fire Department in Stillwater Township.

Mr. Szabo asked if an OPRA was filed by the township to the fire department requesting the information they did not receive. Ms. Chamings stated letters were sent to the department requesting an audit. Mr. Szabo reported he had spoken with John Paff, an OPRA expert, who suggested filing an OPRA with the township for emails and documentation regarding this matter. Mr. Paff emailed the Mayor and Township Committee suggesting they file an OPRA with the fire department. Ms. Chamings noted some of the information is confidential.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:10 p.m. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:10 p.m.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Mr. Branagan. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary