

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 11, 2013**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Emmetts, Ms. Ramberg

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

The minutes of 2/11/13 were tabled until the meeting of 4/8/13 to allow Mr. Szabo to listen to the audio for clarification.

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. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:07 p.m. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:07 p.m.

Correspondence:

ANJEC: Open Space Grants:

The EC discussed filing the grant application noting funding can be obtained for such items as: trail building/sign maintenance; Veteran's Memorial Park walking trail and/or invasive removal; habitat enhancement, printed online maps, and events such as Stillwater Day. Stillwater Day was briefly discussed and items such as the open space brochure/map, updated ordinances – lighting, outdoor woodburning furnace, tree protection and anti-idling will be included. The grant application is due at 4:30 p.m. on 4/19/13 and Mr. Szabo agreed to file the required documentation.

After further discussion, Mr. Branagan made a **motion** authorizing Mr. Szabo to file the open space grant application, seconded by Mr. Klimek.

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

Sustainable Jersey: Letter received from Randall Solomon, Co-Director of Sustainable Jersey at the Sustainable Institute at the College of New Jersey

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey Update: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby

A Green Team meeting was held on March 6, 2013 with Matt Lifschultz, Amy Schwartz, Mike Nystrom, Lisa Chamings, Anita Straway, Ron Hornung, Patty Klimek and Kathy Fobes-Jacoby present.

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby provided handouts on the following actions – Green Team and Environmental Commission. She clarified the point system, noting 150 points are required for the Bronze Certification and 350 points for the Silver Certification. She noted if the 150 points acquired are still in effect and have not expired, they will accumulate toward the 350 points. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby is interested in holding a Green Fair which would also involve the schools. After reviewing the items Hope Township submitted for their recent certification, she felt Stillwater could become certified by June. She addressed the ERI which needs to be updated to satisfy the requirements; and noted it may be possible to commit to updating the ERI in the near future and still be eligible for up to 20 points. Mr. Nystrom noted there are certain items that need to be addressed in the ERI such as climate, air pollution, wetlands and hydrology. Clean Up Day is another opportunity to obtain points by providing give-aways such as reusable bags, seeds, and compost bins. The Green Team is interested in participating in Clean Up Day as a group if allowable, pending approval by the CFO. The EC has been invited to a free event on Sustainable Jersey to be held at the Sparta Middle School on 4/16/13 from 5-8 p.m., offering networking opportunities among Sussex County Green Teams. Mr. Branagan agreed to review the anti-idling section of the Sustainable Jersey actions to see if the township can meet the requirements. A fleet inventory was mentioned and would be worth 10 points. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby felt there were many actions already existing in the municipality that would apply.

Mr. Szabo questioned whether or not the Sustainable Jersey process was approved by the Township Committee. Ms. Chamblings indicated it was based on the adoption of Resolution 2011-42 authorizing participation in Sustainable Jersey and establishing a Green Team; and Resolution 2011-43 authorizing Kathy Fobes-Jacoby to pursue the certification.

Municipal Orchard Update: Ian Blanchard

Mr. Blanchard was not present and this item will be added to the next agenda.

No Littering Signs:

After considering the matter further, Mr. Branagan felt it was not necessary to purchase and display the signs to enforce the ordinance. Mr. Klimek agreed, although in the past he felt there may have been a legal reason for posting such signs. After further discussion, the EC agreed to table this item to allow Ms. Chamblings to contact the Township Attorney for an opinion on whether or not signs would be required for enforcement purposes, and also to inquire if the signs could be posted on existing speed limit signs on township roads. Mr. Branagan will obtain a formal quote for the signage to be approved by the CFO. The signs would be funded through the Clean Communities grant.

Tree Cutting Ordinance:

Following input and comment by the Zoning Officer a draft of the proposed ordinance was reviewed by the EC. Mr. Klimek expressed concern with the definition for clear cutting and he asked who would be responsible for determining which trees could be removed and also what criteria would be used to prevent an individual from cutting more than 10 percent. Mr. Branagan explained the Zoning Officer requested an amendment to the ordinance to prevent someone from removing all trees from their property. The proposed ordinance only permits 10 percent to be removed in one year. Mr. Klimek discussed a general permit requirement to remove trees in a wetlands area or stream crossing under a woodland management plan. Following research, Ms. Chamblings indicated individuals with a forestry management plan are exempt from the Freshwater Protection Act. Mr. Klimek asked who would determine the degree of the slope and would a fee be required for the tree removal permit, as well as a time frame for conducting an inspection to approval. Mr. Branagan felt a topo map could be used regarding the slope and the EC agreed a fee would have to be included. Mr. Szabo inquired if there was a minimum diameter for trees to be considered and included on a permit. Mr. Klimek thought a 6-inch minimum was required under the current ordinance and he questioned the clearing of second growth. Mr. Branagan suggested allowing 10 percent per acre rather than 10 percent per property. He would address Mr. Klimek's concerns and a fee schedule with the Zoning Officer, with an updated draft of the ordinance to be presented at the April or May meeting for further EC consideration.

Water Testing Results:

The stream water test results comparison to prior years was emailed to the EC for their review. Mr. Szabo would provide a copy to Mr. Sadjak for his input.

Fishing Line Receptacles:

Mr. Branagan and Mr. Szabo will meet to construct the receptacles and choose locations for placement.

Amphibian Crossing Study: Mr. Branagan reported the amphibian crossing study would not be held on March 12th due to the weather conditions. The study would be held on Route 619 across from the entrance to Swartswood State Park. Mr. Szabo and Mr. Klimek were interested in participating. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported that her husband would be conducting a survey on Old Foundry Road.

Open Space Brochure:

Following approval by Assistant Principal Dan Cullen at Stillwater School, the brochure was distributed last week. Feedback has been positive.

New Business

Anti-Idling Flyer:

The EC reviewed a flyer created by Warren Township. Mr. Branagan agreed to review the flyer and update it for Stillwater Township. He will also review the anti-idling action for Sustainable Jersey.

Guest Speakers:

Mr. Szabo asked to schedule Nathaniel Sadjak to provide a presentation on the Paulinskill Watershed at either the 4/8/13 or 5/13/13 meeting. The EC agreed and Mr. Szabo will contact him.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:35 p.m.

Lisa Chammings, 928 Mt. Holly Road spoke on the PSE&G project, indicating surveying has begun on the access roads. The EC was invited to comment through ANJEC. The access roads have to be redone as the ones that were mapped will not be adequate. She noted the access road on a property on Fairview Lake Road will not be used and will no longer cross a vernal pond; they will use the cell tower access. PSE&G is trying to be more environmentally sensitive. Mr. Branagan will visit the vernal pond and obtain photo evidence.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:40 p.m.

Planning Board Liaison Report:

Ms. Chammings reported a solar and wind ordinance will be reviewed, as well as a proposed ordinance for trailers, train containers, tractor trailer boxes, pods, etc. for storage purposes.

Township Liaison Report:

Ms. Chammings reported the 2013 budget was introduced on 3/5/13 and the public hearing will be held on 4/2/13. It is a self-examination year. Ms. Chammings has asked the Township Committee to reconsider the farmland preservation proposal on the border of Frelinghuysen and Stillwater. Mr. Klimek asked if the Land Conservancy was considered for 2013. Ms. Chammings welcomed the EC thoughts on inviting the LC back as the open space tax is still being collected. Mr. Klimek asked about the progress of the playground at Veteran's Memorial Park. Ms. Chammings had no update at this time. Mr. Klimek noted surrounding communities are still using the services of the LC and preserving open space.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

Next Meeting: April 8, 2013