

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 12, 2012**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Emmetts, Mr. Nystrom

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. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the minutes of February 13, 2012, seconded by Mr. Szabo, as amended including Mr. Klimek as present at the meeting.

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

Bills

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

Secretary: \$ 180.25

NJH: \$ 14.15

NJH: \$ 15.20

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, 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 7:11 p.m. There being no public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:11 p.m.

Old Business

Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LC) Contract:

A lengthy discussion was held on the 2012 Land Conservancy Contract. Committeewoman Chamblings was included in the discussion and reported that a revised contract in the amount of \$8,000 was offered following the denial of the original contract by a vote of 4-1 by the Township Committee. Ms. Chamblings voted in favor of the contract. A reduced rate contract was provided and not considered, and as a result and based on concerns expressed, an additional contract removing farmland preservation was presented. Mayor Scott indicated he was in favor of open space and the matter was tabled by the Township Committee to allow the Mayor additional time to review the contract. The EC discussed the concerns expressed by the Township Committee and Mr. Klimek noted that even though some of the Committee felt preservation removes the property from the tax list, it is a benefit to the township as it preserves the land. Mr. Szabo commended Mayor Scott for opening the matter for further discussion and felt EC members should have information to support their argument in favor of the contract. Ms. Ramberg and Ms. Fobes-Jacoby agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of the EC. The EC discussed the use of the Open Space Trust Fund, noting the Township Committee would like to use the funds for recreation and park maintenance, possibly amending the ordinance to do so. Mr. Szabo expressed concern with the proposed ordinance amendment, changing "passive" to "active" recreation. The EC further discussed the referendum process to establish the Open Space Trust Fund compared to the ordinance that was adopted, noting an opinion letter was provided by the Township Attorney recommending the change to the ordinance. Mr. Klimek discussed the Recycling Trust Fund and the possibility of using those funds for recreation purposes. Mr. Klimek explained in lieu of taxes, noting \$64,000 was paid by the state in 2012, \$64,000 in 2011, and \$90,000 in 2010.

SCMUA: Ms. Ramberg asked about the closing of the SCMUA and future plans. Ms. Chamblings indicated the closing date has been postponed for two to four years.

Syberg Farmland Preservation: Ms. Chamblings reported the Syberg resolution for farmland preservation was tabled again by the Township Committee. Mr. Klimek explained the resolution in support of the application is needed to obtain grant funding to move forward. He noted this property was a top priority for the County and was second on their list. The property was at one time proposed for a 19 home subdivision. The EC was concerned with the resolution not proceeding

and it was clarified that no funding is being contributed by the Township toward the preservation. A letter was sent to the Land Conservancy from the Township asking for clarification on the criteria used and when the farm project began. Ms. Chamblings stated it should be on the next Committee agenda. Mr. Szabo stated he had recommended obtaining a checklist from the County in the past on the complete process and he again suggested doing so.

Executive Session:

At 7:55 p.m., Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to enter into Executive Session under Contracts to discuss the Land Conservancy Contract, stating the matter would be made public at the conclusion of the individual subject matter, seconded by Mr. Branagan.

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

Ms. Chamblings left the meeting room during Executive Session.

At 8:04 p.m., Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to leave Executive Session, stating the Land Conservancy Contract was discussed and the matter would be made public at the conclusion of the individual subject matter, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

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

Ms. Chamblings rejoined the meeting at this point.

Trail Map: Mr. Klimek stated a land owner involved in the matter is currently in the process of cleaning up their property on Old Foundry Road, preparing for Green Acres acquisition.

Sustainable Jersey Update: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported she is uploading the energy audit documents and is also working on the recycling aspect. A Green Team must be established, including individuals from the Township Committee, members of the community, boards/commissions, schools, recycling coordinator, and CFO. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby will check with Sustainable Jersey to inquire if residency is required by a Green Team member, as many of the municipal and school employees do not reside in Stillwater. The EC discussed drafting a letter to individuals to see if they are interested in serving on the Green Team.

EC Newsletter Update: The EC reviewed the newsletter and several changes and updates were made. Mr. Branagan would provide additional information and Mrs. Tracey would also provide information on septic systems and Ms. Fobes-Jacoby on Sustainable Jersey. Mrs. Wunder would update the newsletter and provide a draft for EC review before a final copy is presented.

Amphibian Crossing: Mr. Branagan reported that the amphibian crossing survey was conducted on March 8, 2012, with no rain, and only one spotted salamander and a couple of wood frogs observed.

Stillwater School Environmental Program: Mr. Branagan will be presenting a program on recycling at the Stillwater School on March 26th at 9:30 a.m. and again at 1:45 p.m.

New Business

Site Survey Form Acceptance:

Zoning Board of Adjustment: Durso, Block 3701, Lot 7.02, inground pool

Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to accept the site survey, seconded by Ms. Ramberg.

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

Veteran's Memorial Park – Invasive Removal: Mr. Branagan reported that as a result of concerns expressed by a Recreation Commission member with respect to the excessive removal of invasives at Veteran's Memorial Park, he inspected the area in question. Mr. Branagan indicated he did not see any issues in general or with the bird nesting.

Municipal Building Lighting: Mr. Branagan expressed concern with the light pole located in the parking lot at the Municipal Building and its lack of compliance with the lighting ordinance. He asked if a sensor light could be installed to replace the existing light during the renovation process. Ms. Chamblings would follow up on the matter.

Animal Waste Near Waterways: Mr. Branagan expressed concern with animal waste on local farms seeping into nearby waterways and regulations prohibiting such. Mr. Klimek indicated that under the law change property owners must submit a plan to the DEP regarding proper disposal of the animal waste. Mr. Branagan will follow-up with Mr. Nystrom and Ms. Chamblings would contact Mr. Roof for more information.

Gallagher Property: Ms. Ramberg inquired as to the status of the Gallagher property located on Fairview Lake Road. Ms. Chamblings explained the property was placed for tax sale and the certificate was purchased by a local resident.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 9 p.m.

Ms. Chamblings thanked the EC for addressing the PSE&G power line concerns. She stated the Park Service will announce their final decision on March 31, 2012.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 9:02 p.m.

Planning Board Liaison Report: No report.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chamblings

Ms. Chamblings reported that Clean Up Day would be held on April 28, 2012 and tire collection will be included. Free E-Waste disposal will be available at the Recycling Center, tentatively scheduled to begin in April. Ms. Chamblings will attend the next Sussex County Agricultural Development Committee meeting regarding the Syberg application. She stated the Township Committee has requested a price quote on the open space map and brochure from the Land Conservancy. She also reported that Green Acres has closed on the Goldschmidt property, 114 acres, with the help of the Land Conservancy.

The EC agreed to add the open space and farmland preservations totals to the EC newsletter.

Ms. Chamblings thanked the EC for their support and efforts regarding open space and farmland preservation in the Township.

Mr. Branagan thanked Ms. Chamblings for her efforts toward renewing the Land Conservancy contract.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Mr. Klimek. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson