

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 14, 2016**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Emmetts, Mr. Blanchard

Mr. Branagan called the meeting to order at 7:05 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.

Recycling Presentation: Guest Speaker Renee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator, SCMUA Keith Whitehead, Stillwater Recycling Coordinator and Tim Fisher, Committeeman and liaison to the Recycling Center, were present.

Ms. Casapulla visited the Stillwater Recycling Center and reviewed her findings. Mr. Whitehead noted he is currently obtaining quotes for a covered dumpster with sliding doors to prevent mixed fiber from blowing all over. Ms. Casapulla felt overall the Recycling Center looks good. She noted the following improvements can be made: Call2Recycle – a program for recycling rechargeable batteries; signage should be added to the battery shed; information on battery recycling is available on the SCMUA website; and the public needs to be made aware cartons can be co-mingled. Ms. Casapulla will send information on recycling items that can be tweaked to fit our municipality. Mr. Branagan explained the EC paid for recycling signs and they were never installed. Mr. Whitehead reported he is in the process of making boards depicting recycling items to be installed in conjunction with the EC signs for each disposal area. Ms. Casapulla reported glass is the hardest item to recycle and there has been talk about discontinuing it, which is an increasing concern. The lack of e-waste disposal is also of concern and the SCMUA is working to try and negotiate a contract at this time, very limited though. E-waste is accepted at the SCMUA Convenience Center for a charge and is being stockpiled in hopes a contract is forthcoming. Mr. Whitehead stated the Stillwater Recycling Center refers residents to the SCMUA for e-waste disposal at this time and starting in April there will be a charge of .25/gallon to dispose of oil at the Stillwater Recycling Center as the township is now being charged for disposal. Tire collection was discussed and Stillwater allows for up to four tires to be dropped off free of charge at the center on Clean Up Day. Clean Communities funding is used for this program. Ms. Casapulla felt the most important item was appropriate signage and it should be installed as soon as possible. She informed the EC that the SCMUA is working toward a Styrofoam recycling program, an early summer or fall initiative. It cannot be food based, and will be collected and densified using a special machine; material is stored and is very valuable. Many building products are constructed using the recycled Styrofoam and the material is in high demand. She spoke of mixed rigid plastic (MRP) collection and felt it would be an ambitious idea for Stillwater at this time, but may be revisited in the future. Storage is needed and it would need to be checked for contamination because if contamination is discovered the entire load is affected. Residents can be referred to the SCMUA for MRP

disposal. She suggested possibly holding MRP collection on Clean Up Day as a pilot program. Ms. Casapulla spoke about a shrink wrap disposal program run through the TREX program in some local schools; and the cell phones for soldiers program which Mr. Whitehead would like to participate in, placing a collection box at town hall. Ms. Casapulla recommended drafting an action plan at this point and then moving forward. The EC thanked Ms. Casapulla for her time and information and also thanked Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Fisher for their attendance.

Minutes

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 2/8/16, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

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

Bills

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

Secretary: \$202.88

NJH: \$33.60 (Reorganization)

ANJEC Membership: \$350.00

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

Correspondence:

•**Sussex County Open Space and Recreation Plan Meeting Invite:** February 25, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Freeholders Meeting Room at the County Administration Building – Mr. Branagan, Mrs. Branagan, Ms. Chamings, and Mr. Szabo were in attendance. Mrs. Branagan reported the meeting focused on updating the 2003 plan; grant funding is available and will be more concentrated on protection rather than acquisition.

•**NJDEP News:** Christie Administration Approves More than \$1.1 Million in Recreation Trail Grants – locally, Buttermilk Falls received funding.

•**Stillwater School: Schoolyard Greenhouse and Garden Project Meeting** – March 3, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the school library – Ms. Chamings and Ms. Fobes-Jacoby attended the meeting reporting the group has a good outline and plan in place. The PTA has offered \$2,000 in funding. Ms. Chamings suggested drafting a site plan and presenting it to the township to see if it is eligible for a site plan waiver before the Planning Board. The next meeting will be held on March 22nd between 3 and 4 p.m. Many contractors have offered their volunteer efforts.

•**Township Committee – Gypsy Moth Presentation** by Howard Panton, NJ Inspector – March 15, 2016 at 7 p.m. – Meeting Room at the Municipal Building

•**ANJEC: Action Alerts – E-Waste Programs Facing Elimination** – (Governor Christie pocket vetoed A-4763, a bill that would have reformed some provisions of the e-waste law). Following a brief discussion, Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to forward a letter to the local legislators asking for their assistance in addressing the e-waste issue, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. The Electronics Waste Management Act requires manufacturers that sell electronic products in New Jersey to develop and fund programs that provide free recycling. Some manufacturers have minimized or avoided their obligations. Mr. Szabo felt it would be disparaging to manufacturers. He felt ANJEC is overstepping their mission and this has been a

trend of theirs over the past few years, becoming very political. He asked the EC to take this into consideration.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, no, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, yes, Mrs. Branagan, yes, Mr. Carbone, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Old Business

Sustainable New Jersey (SJ):

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby is still working and hoping to have everything in by the June deadline.

- Energy audit
- Fleet inventory
- Clean Up Day
- River Clean Up report

Amphibian Crossing: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Swartswood Tally:

Spotted Salamanders 20, 2^
Wood Frogs 1223, 122^, 49 DOR
Spring Peepers 172, 23^, 20 DOR
American Toad 4, 2^
Jefferson Salamander 22, 2^
Red Spotted Newts: 4
Estimate of 85 cars

Paulinskill River Tree Restoration Project:

Mr. Branagan spoke with Mr. Sajdak and they will meet and contact the Ridge and Valley Charter School to complete the project in April.

Fishing Line Receptacles:

Receptacle collection will resume in April.

EC Newsletter:

This item is ongoing as information and articles are submitted.

2016 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant:

The Township Committee must be informed of the project and their written support provided. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby was also interested in applying for a grant for native plantings at VMP and would inquire if two could be applied for simultaneously. She also offered to withdraw her application if the EC felt it was necessary. Mr. Carbone summarized the project he and Mr. Branagan have been working on: cleaning up the trails, installing birdhouses, turtle nesting sites, signage, etc. Ms. Chamming suggested Ms. Fobes-Jacoby look into having her plan done as an Eagle Scout project. She noted Brian Philhower's mother would like to re-establish plantings he did in the past and may be willing to assist.

New Business

Stream Water Testing: Testing will be done in the Spring 2016, funded through the PSE&G grant.

Environmental Recognition:

Jonathan Schroeder for adding an acknowledgment – “thank you” to PSE&G on the Paulinskill River Clean Up Project video; Ed Szabo, Jack and Sara Branagan for attending the OSRP meeting at the County; Ms. Fobes-Jacoby for the native plantings project and amphibian crossing; and Mr. Carbone for the ANJEC trail grant and walking trail.

Endangered and Threatened Species Sightings: None

Clean Communities Meeting: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby attended and informed the EC of a Clean Up Water Day, stream, lakes, etc. The day would be held separately from Clean Up Day, between March 1st and April 30th. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby will email Mrs. Wunder the information to be distributed to the EC. Mr. Szabo suggested emailing the lake associations if moving forward with a Water Clean Up Day.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: Mr. Branagan/Ms. Chamblings

- Celtic Creations – updated their site plan
- Schmidt – site plan waiver granted for a barn
- YMCA –site plan waiver granted for a duplex
- Discussion was held on escrow fees

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chamblings

- Alfia Schemm was appointed as the Zoning Board secretary
- Debbie Pfunke was appointed as Deputy OEM
- Shared Service Agreement for certification of tonnage grant
- Budget to be introduced on March 14, 2016
- A specialized camera was used to view and locate the drainage pipe to the Ur property. It extends from under the meeting room and feeds through the Ur’s septic field. This item is on the Township Committee agenda for March 15, 2016 and a decision should be made at that time.

Miscellaneous Reports:

Ms. Chamblings attended the last Recreation Commission meeting and they are in support of the ANJEC grant application. Mr. Fisher reported he has been in contact with the Township Engineer regarding the pavilion location at VMP and is also discussing an additional driveway and utilizing the upper parking area. The Recreation Commission discussed a playground and they purchased a large tent for Stillwater Day. C&V will complete the paving on the path at VMP.

PAC: Mr. Carbone informed the EC that due to a change in employment he will be unable to attend the PAC meetings and will have to resign. Mrs. Tracey will consider filling in while Mr. Blanchard is unavailable.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public.

Mr. Fisher felt the Recreation and Environmental Commissions should work together on the trails and community garden as well as other projects.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Szabo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary