

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
July 9, 2012**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Klimek, 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 June 11, 2012, seconded by Ms. Ramberg.

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

Mrs. Fleck arrived at 7:10 p.m.

**Bills**

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the following bill, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts.

Secretary: \$ 180.25

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

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:10 p.m.**

**Ian Blanchard, 908 Wall Street** provided a recap of his proposal to develop a municipal orchard. He collected 57 signatures at Stillwater Day interested in the proposal and he received no negative feedback. He referenced a pamphlet, "Starting a Community Orchard in North Dakota," which also included information on orchard development in other states. He felt the first step would be to form an advisory council to review such issues as the variety of trees to be planted; liability issues; township procedures; formation of a Board of Trustees (5-members); draft a list of volunteers, and visit sites to be considered. Mr. Branagan stated Mr. Klimek had mentioned the Camp Towadena property; however it is not very accessible, is heavily wooded and isolated. There is also property located on Middletown Road which consists of 5.7 acres and is open field. He suggested having at least five properties to choose from. Mr. Blanchard spoke on the orchard requirements and felt it should be open to individuals in Stillwater as well as outside of the community. All procedures would be formally written in a set of by-laws. He mentioned that spraying is a concern and he is in favor of organic farming, but he is not opposed to spraying if it is necessary to keep the orchard. He mentioned the mission statements included in the North Dakota pamphlet which are geared toward youth and health and stated he would like Stillwater to also be educational. A private orchard was discussed and Mr. Blanchard stated although he is not opposed to a private profitable venture he is interested in developing a community orchard, noting a private orchard would require funding. He stated incentive to participate in the municipal orchard project would be preservation of community, education of children, alleviating poverty, helping the community overall, and it would be an opportunity for youth to be invested in the community. The advisory council should include individuals with experience in different aspects of orchard development as well as youth and school representation. Mr. Branagan felt the first step would be to search for property. Mr. Szabo recommended having Mr. Blanchard compose a formal package consisting of material and information on the proposal. Following further discussion, it was decided that Mr. Branagan, Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Klimek will meet to brainstorm and formulate an outline of the proposal. A member of the public suggested contacting the Master Gardeners of Sussex County to use as a resource.

**Kathy Fobes-Jacoby** spoke as a member of the public stating she has lived in Stillwater for over 20 years and she just wanted to mention that she went to Swartswood State Park for the first time and it was a wonderful experience.

**There being no public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:42 p.m.**

**Correspondence:**

- Budget Report through 6/11/12
- PSE&G – Resubmission of the Flood Hazard Individual Permit Application. Ms Chamings noted there is a 30 day comment period from the date of the DEP bulletin and anyone can present comment, not just noticed parties.
- Email from Mr. Szabo dated 6/28/12, re: Conservative New Jersey

**Old Business**

**Trails/Open Space Map/Brochure:** No report. This item will be added to the next agenda.

**No Littering Signs:**

Mr. Branagan reported that he had visited several entrances to Stillwater and all signs need replacing. Some are missing and others are faded, and the ordinance numbers have also changed. Mr. Branagan will determine the number of entrances and number of signs required. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby offered to assist.

**No Idling Signs:**

Mr. Branagan reported he will be meeting with the art teacher at Stillwater School to discuss the poster contest which will be held during the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade summer school program. Prize options were briefly discussed.

**Tree Cutting Ordinance:** Mr. Branagan would contact the Zoning Officer to discuss specific wording of the ordinance amendment to help with enforcement issues and report at the next meeting.

**Sustainable Jersey Update:**

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported that she conducted a survey at Stillwater Day with the following results (to be emailed to EC members for future grant option consideration):

**First Section of Priority Actions**

Sustainable Land Use Pledge	13
Municipal Carbon Footprint	10
Natural Resource Inventory	8

**Second Section of 16 Categories (pick as many as interest you)**

Food	29
Energy Efficiency	23
Health and Wellness	23
Natural Resources	23
Waste Management	23

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby attended the last Board of Education meeting at Stillwater School regarding the purchase of a composter. The Board expressed interest but would like to research the matter further. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby offered to set up a demonstration. Mr. Branagan suggested visiting a school that currently utilizes a composter.

**PSE&G Grant:** Ms. Fobes-Jacoby stated numerous municipalities are applying for the composter and it would not be a good choice to pursue this year. The deadline for the grant application is 7/15/12. Following further discussion, the EC determined the deadline would not be met as the Township Committee would need to be advised of the application. Mrs. Fleck expressed concern with the motives of companies such as Wal-Mart and PSE&G for providing grant funding to rural areas.

**Veteran’s Memorial Park (VMP) – Playground:**

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby attended a Recreation Commission meeting on the proposed playground at VMP and the possibility of including it in the Sustainable Jersey process. The cost of the playground is as follows:

- Recyclable material: \$180,000
- Regular material: \$80,000-\$100,000

**Sustainable New Jersey/Agenda 21 Questions/Responses:**

Mr. Szabo provided a packet he compiled regarding his concerns with the relation between Sustainable Jersey and Agenda 21. The packet was distributed to the EC and members of the public interested. The EC will review the information for discussion at the next meeting to determine if the packet should be forwarded to the Township Committee.

**New Business**

**Zoning Board of Adjustment:** Site Survey Form Acceptance

**Rae,** Block 1401, Lot 25, Cal. No. 577

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to accept the site survey, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts.

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

Ms. Ramberg asked for a description of the work being done to be added to the site survey, such as deck, addition, etc.

**Site Survey Inspections to be conducted:**

**Cellco Partnership,** Block 3101, Lot 13, Cal. No. 578 – cell tower: Mr. Branagan/Mr. Szabo

**Goldberg,** Block 4005, Lot 7, Cal. No. 579 – sunroom addition: Mrs. Tracey

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:26 p.m.**

**Ian Blanchard** referred to the discussion concerning the prize for the no idling poster contest and felt kids would enjoy the contest regardless of whether or not a prize was offered.

**There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:26 p.m.**

**Planning Board Liaison Report:**

Mr. Branagan reported the Planning Board held discussion on the following items at their June meeting:

-Recreation/Conservation Zone with respect to zoning of State owned properties. The zoning would require amendments to 240-103 Zoning District and 240-109 Define R/C Zone

-Solar Ordinance review

Mr. Szabo asked if hunting/fishing activities would still be permitted on property that it is currently allowed on following the zone change. Ms. Chamings stated it could be included in the amendment and if Mr. Szabo is interested he should express his concerns to the Planning Board. Ms. Ramberg asked if the rezoning would affect farmland. Ms. Chamings stated the rezoning would only affect public owned property. Some members of the EC expressed concern with adding properties to the R/C zone and the effects of such. Ms. Chamings explained the amendments would be based on the Fredon ordinance which includes accessory uses such as fishing and hunting. She would email a copy of that ordinance to the EC for their review.

**Township Liaison Report:** Committeewoman Chamings

**Ms. Chamings reported the following:**

-The Planning Board is reviewing two sample solar ordinances from Hardwick and Fredon. She will email of copy of those ordinances to the EC.

-Trail Map Update: Mrs. Fisher met with Cory Stoner of Pellow Associates to review revisions to the zoning map. Ms. Chamings spoke with Mr. Stoner and he can provide the necessary information to update the trail map/open space map/brochure. She will meet with Mr. Klimek to walk the trail and she will mow a portion of the trail off the parking area.

-Ms. Chamings will email a copy of the Master Plan Re-Examination Report to the EC.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Emmetts. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Wunder, Secretary

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Jack Branagan, Chairperson