

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 8, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Szabo, Mrs. Fleck, Mrs. Emmetts, Mrs. Tracey, Ms. Ramberg, Mr. Klimek, Mr. Nystrom, Mr. Branagan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Fobes-Jacoby

Mr. Branagan called the meeting to order at 7:03 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

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of July 11, 2011, as amended removing “endangered” from the wood turtle report, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

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

Bills

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

Secretary	\$ 180.25
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Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:06 p.m.

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road stated he was at the Farm and Horse Show and visited a vendor for outdoor woodburning furnaces. The vendor referenced federal law and recommended the EC review it prior to passing the OWF ordinance. Mr. Branagan, Mrs. Wunder and Ms. Ramberg would follow-up on the federal requirements.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:11 p.m.

Correspondence: NJDEP General Permit No. 25 Application, Mandle, Block 1703, Lot 4.02

NJDEP Authorization for General Permit No. 25, Mandle, Block 1703, Lot 4.02

NJDEP authorization was granted to allow an alteration to a sewage disposal system. The EC reviewed the authorization and required conditions.

Old Business

Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LC): The EC reviewed the following report submitted by Sandy Urgo of the Land Conservancy:

Farmland

We attended the Sussex County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) on July 18th, at that time they requested a tour of all of the farms that we obtained non-profit funding for (except for Cold Springs Farm in Stillwater because they said they have been there). We took them out to the other five farms (including Syberg Farm in Stillwater on West End Dr.) on August 1st. The Committee was impressed with the quality of all of the farms and commented that all were very scenic. They seemed enthusiastic about partnering with us and we are optimistic that they will try to match our funding and complete all 6 farms. They are going to review possible funding scenarios and get back to us. It is clear that it will take them some time to gain reimbursement funds from SADC on other farms that they will be able to use on these. They are aware that there is a 3 year limit on our non-profit grant award.

Trails

I did follow up on some of the issues associated with this potential trail, here is what I found out:

- I spoke with the Green Acres trail grants person. If there is a round this year, it will be in December. It is not clear yet whether there will be funding for trails this year because this funding comes from a Federal Transportation bill. There is no bill yet this year, and it is not clear if there is one, whether or not it will include trail funding.
- I also confirmed that we could in fact apply for a trail grant (as non-owners) for work to be done on both the Fish and Wildlife land (for parking) and The Nature Conservancy land (blazed trail). That is not a problem so long as both organizations that own the land write letter of support / permission.

I also confirmed that Owassa Rd. is a County Rd. – this may or may not be a significant issue (hopefully we can avoid going to the County altogether as this is already operating as a parking area).

Significantly, John Flynn is now the trails person at Green Acres and while I spoke with him he mentioned a desire to see the trails on the Camp Kiamesha property re-established. He described an excellent trail system that used to be on the property (red blazes) that led to routes south along the ridge and north along the ridge. The trail fell into disrepair while it was a camp and has not been re-established since the State took ownership. He mentioned that he would like to see Fish and Wildlife put in an application as they were great trails and excellent ridge access ways.

Based on all of the above, I will advise you immediately if a trail grant round is announced this year.

Open Space Map

We would very much like to finish your Open Space Map update. We appreciate the cooperation we have received in helping to make sure it is accurate. The hold up right now is the digital parcel layer. The Township had requested that we use the new layer from the updated tax maps. That layer is not available digitally yet. We have spoken with the Tax Assessor and the Engineer and just last Friday were told by the Tax Assessor that she is trying to get them for us, but they are not quite done yet. Our mapping person will be out of the country for the last three weeks in August. Hopefully when he returns the digital layer will be available and we can complete the map.

Open Space Brochure

We understand that the Environmental Commission may be interested in developing a brochure that would provide information and tout the successes of the Open Space program. We can accommodate this under our contract, but will need some lead time. My initial thought was that we could develop a draft by September. However based on the delay on the Open Space Map and staff vacations, I am going to push that timeline back to October soonest for a draft. Also, we would like some feedback from the Environmental Commission as follows:

Generally brochures are done on tri-folds and the inside opens out to a full page map. Would you prefer the Open Space map appear there, or if we can manage it, the Preserved Lands Map. I find the Preserved Lands Map to be a bit easier to read – Open Space maps are done per Green Acres guidelines and are very colorful. (I just have to check when we might be able to have the Preserved Lands layer installed over the new parcel layer that we are waiting for.)

We can provide some information on the opposite side about how much funding has been brought to town by this program, acres preserved, etc. If there is anything specific you really want included let us know.

The EC further discussed the parking lot access to the Owassa Road trails. Mr. Vreeland, Township Engineer, reviewed the matter and indicated that County approval would be necessary for the opening as it is located on a County road. Mr. Klimek reported that he would be willing to meet with John Flynn and Sandy Uργο at Camp Kiamesha to review the options for re-establishing the trails located on the property.

The EC discussed the proposed open space brochure and Mr. Szabo felt it could be used as a model for other municipalities and the conservation efforts deserve recognition.

At this point, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to forward a memo to Sandy Uργο of the Land Conservancy in support of the development of an open space tri-fold brochure including information on the network of trails in Stillwater, seconded by Ms. Ramberg.

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

The EC reviewed the LC confidential report.

The EC discussed the township-owned lots located in the area around Mud Pond. Mrs. Straway indicated she was waiting for Sandy Uργο to contact her to walk the property prior to a decision being made by the Township Committee. Mr. Klimek would follow-up with Ms. Uργο to schedule a site visit. The funds from the purchase of the property by the Nature Conservancy could be used to offset miscellaneous costs related to the acquisition of Cold Springs Farm.

Outdoor Woodburning Furnace (OWF) Ordinance Update: Mrs. Wunder reported the appropriate language for Chapter and Sections was added to the ordinance and it should be introduced by the Township Committee at their September 6, 2011 meeting.

Recycling Signs: The EC noted that the battery signs had been relocated, however the doors to the shed were not open this past weekend and the signs were once again not visible. There is still an issue with the location and visibility of the mixed paper and cardboard signs. The EC expressed their dismay with the matter not being addressed.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP) Invasive Species: Mr. Branagan and Ms. Fobes-Jacoby met with Brian Cramer at VMP to identify the invasives which include Autumn Olive, Barberry, Multi-flora Rose, Tree of Heaven, and Atlantis. Mrs. Wunder will contact SLAP to discuss what tools they can use and would follow-up with a letter to schedule the removal of the invasives. Mr. Branagan will mark the areas of removal, behind the parking lot in the passive recreation area.

Sustainable Jersey Grants:

Mrs. Emmetts expressed great concern with the association between Sustainable Jersey certification and Agenda 21. Agenda 21 was developed by the United Nations in 1992 and has been updated over the years. She read the goal of Agenda 21 to provide a general idea of its purpose into the record as follows: Integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in policy-making at international, regional and national levels; wide-spread adoption of an integrated, cross-sectoral and broadly participatory approach to sustainable development; measurable progress in the implementation of the goals and targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. According to Wikipedia, Agenda 21 is an action plan of the UN related to sustainable development and is a comprehensive blueprint of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the UN, governments, and major groups in every area in which humans directly affect the environment. Mrs. Emmetts stated they want to establish international laws which will be enforced by the UN with regard to farming, open space, development of technology, and many other issues. She felt that Sustainable Jersey may be a local level of Agenda 21 and would like to know more about the possible connection prior to moving forward with the pursuit of certification. Mr. Szabo recommended holding off on registering for the certification process until more information is obtained. He referred to a State of New Jersey website for the NJDEP and Fish and Wildlife that provides a link to information on "sustainable" and included information on Agenda 21. Mr. Klimek and Ms. Ramberg felt any connection between Sustainable Jersey and Agenda 21 was questionable. After further discussion the EC agreed to hold off on registration at this point and each EC member would research the matter and the item would be added to the next agenda for discussion.

Solar Energy Program: Mrs. Emmetts referred to the Sun Ray Solar presentation that was provided at a prior Township Committee meeting, noting the principal owners of the company are Jon Corzine and Robert Torricelli. She briefly discussed cadmium and its usage in some solar equipment. Mrs. Straway stated it appears the project will not be moving forward at this time. Mr. Szabo mentioned that bond anticipation notes could be used to purchase the system. Mrs. Straway stated that would have been an option considered if the project had moved forward. The EC discussed the decrease in SREX value.

Flood Ordinance: Ms. Ramberg asked if there was anything in the new flood ordinance which would affect the site survey form or site inspections conducted by the EC. The EC agreed it could be noted on the form if clarification was needed as to whether or not the property was located in a flood plain. The EC briefly discussed the flooding issue in Swartswood in the area of Mengo's Pizzeria. Mrs. Straway indicated that Arlene Fisher, Zoning Officer, is currently in contact with Scott Garrett's office to obtain funding to address the problem, which stems from a dam at the top of Mt. Benevolence on State-owned property. It is a quality of life issue due to the septic and wells located in the area of the flooding. Mr. Klimek felt the cement and rocks needed to be removed to allow the water to flow into the lake rather than rising.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public. There being no public present, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Planning Board Report:

Mr. Branagan reported a brief Planning Board meeting was held on July 20, 2011.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Straway had no report.

Announcement: Mr. Szabo announced that he obtained an audio and hard copy of the slide presentation made at the Joint Environmental Commission meeting on June 28, 2011 and it will be in the EC file if anyone is interested.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Mr. Branagan. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

Next Meeting: September 12, 2011