

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 11, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Emmetts, Mr. Szabo, Mrs. Fleck, Ms. Fobes-Jacoby, Mr. Blanchard, Mrs. Branagan, Mr. Branagan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Klimek, Mrs. Tracey

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

Mr. Blanchard made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 7/14/14, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts.

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

Bills

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

Secretary: \$ 198.90

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

Correspondence:

NJDEP – Notice of application, Block 2501, Lot 34, (Mattes), application for NJDEP Statewide Freshwater Wetland General Permit #18

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:12 p.m. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:12 p.m.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey (SJ): No report.

Recycling Ordinance Review/Update: This item is on hold pending the updating of the County ordinance to be used as a model.

Ms. Chamings reported an approved E-Waste vendor should be available by September.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP) Recycling Receptacle:

Mr. Branagan will follow-up with Ms. Gullette, Chairperson of the Recreation Commission. The shed will be moved and then restored once it is located at the park. The EC discussed location possibilities, noting the best location would be on the other side of the bridge near the parking lot or possibly down by the fields.

Fishing Line Receptacles: Fishing line was collected.

Mixed Rigid Plastic (MRP): The EC discussed recommending the installation of a MRP container with a cover at the Recycling Center for the disposal of MRPs. Mr. Branagan stated the SCMUA also has a concrete slab where the items can be placed and then transferred to a container once there is enough to fill it. The SCMUA charges .13/lb. for mixed rigid plastic disposal. The EC felt a charge of .03 to .05 cents

higher than SCMUA would be reasonable. Mr. Branagan discussed an informational MRP pamphlet he obtained from the SCMUA and would provide to the Recycling Center for distribution. Following further discussion, the EC unanimously agreed to authorize Mr. Branagan to forward a memo to the Township Committee requesting MRP disposal at the Recycling Center, including the MRP pamphlet.

Paulinskill River Clean Up:

Mr. Blanchard reported that more trash was sorted through from the clean up, with over 100 lbs. of recyclables collected.

GreenFest:

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the GreenFest will be held on 9/7/14 from 1-4 p.m. at the Fairview Lake YMCA Camp. She asked the EC to participate if possible. The GreenFest is a FREE event and will include composting, a bike parade, bike maintenance, nature walk with medicinal/edible plants, green vendors, live music, a recycled art show and more.

New Business:

Zoning Board Application: Gerber, Block 2401, Lot 44.02

Mrs. Branagan expressed concern with the setback of equipment from the wetland areas. Mr. Branagan was concerned with the wetland areas, tree removal, and the installation of a culvert and driveway, all not shown on the map submitted. Mr. Branagan would attend the Zoning Board meeting to be held on 8/25/14.

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to accept the site survey form, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

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

Stream Water Testing: QC Labs Quote - \$1606.00

The quote would be submitted to the CFO and purchase order forwarded to QC Labs. The testing will take place in late September.

Endangered and Threatened Species Update:

Mrs. Emmetts referred to the waterfowl she mentioned at the last EC meeting, noting it has been identified as an Immature Loon. She commented that her son saw another unidentifiable bird that was gray and screeched.

Mrs. Emmetts reported that she and Randy Sprague met with NJDEP representatives for over three hours to show them the state of Swartswood Lake. According to the NJDEP the American Lotus is a threatened and endangered species, although all documentation notes it is native to the south. Mrs. Emmetts reviewed the ERI for threatened and endangered flora and could not find any mention of it. She questioned why this and others such as the Spring Beauty are not included. Mr. Blanchard noted the Bloodroot, liverwort and deep woodland plants should be included.

Mr. Branagan felt the threatened and endangered flora should be included in the ERI and Mrs. Wunder will contact Barbara Heskins-Davis at the Land Conservancy to inquire why it was not and if a list for Stillwater is available.

Mr. Blanchard stated he received information from the Clerk regarding an herbaceous plant survey that is taking place at Trout Brook.

Mrs. Emmetts reported there are two new lotus beds in the lake but no new Water Chestnut. The next Swartswood Lake Watershed Association meeting will be held on 9/6/14 at 10 a.m. at Camp Henry Hoover.

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

Lisa Chammings, 928 Mt. Holly Road expressed frustration with the restoration process being followed by PSE&G. She explained that PSE&G wants to place Grinnell soil in her hayfield, yet provided no specifications. The restoration process requires five inches of top soil, however only an inch or two were provided on an adjacent property. She removed a sample of the soil from that property, which is located below her hayfield, and it included extensive pieces of debris. She displayed the sample to the EC. She invited EC members to walk her right of way to see the lack of restoration, noting the soil is eroding into the wetlands when it rains.

Mrs. Fleck questioned PSE&G's involvement in Sustainable Jersey and their lack of sustainability in this case.

Mr. Branagan, Mr. Szabo and Ms. Fobes-Jacoby will walk the site and determine if it is necessary to forward a letter to PSE&G and also to the Sussex County Soil Conservation District. Mr. Branagan will also check the restoration in his right of way. Mr. Szabo suggested contacting Senator Oroho and Mrs. Emmetts suggested contacting the BPU.

Ms. Chammings contacted Lou Cattuna, NJDEP, who provided her a number for the enforcement office in Chester.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:20 p.m.

Additional Comment:

Mrs. Fleck mentioned that her business, "Music In Motion," held its recent recital at a local Stillwater church hall with over 150 in attendance. She stated that several people commented how beautiful Stillwater is. Her daughter commented that it is in great part due to the efforts of the Environmental Commission.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: July 2014 meeting was cancelled.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings

-Revised plans for the meeting room renovation will be reviewed at the next meeting.

-Next meeting will be held on 8/19/14.

-1st reading of the idling ordinance was held in July. Ms. Chammings will note the concerns expressed by the EC at the 8/19/14 meeting.

-\$2,000 from the Recycling Trust/Clean Communities funds will be used for the GreenFest.

-Bob Huber was hired as the Construction Official

-Greg Chontow was hired as the Building Subcode Official

Ms. Chammings referenced an article in the Township Journal entitled, "15 Ways to Use Your Old Newspapers." She reported a member of the public is interested in purchasing a township owned lot in Crandon Lakes and he feels a large portion of it is located in wetlands and is unbuildable. She felt an EC site inspection may be needed in the future.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Appointment (SWAC): Mr. Blanchard asked if an appointment had been made to SWAC as he is interested in serving on that committee. Ms. Chammings stated that no appointment has been made at this time and she would follow-up with Mayor Scott.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary