

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Tracey, Ms. Ramberg

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. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of September 10, 2012, seconded by Mrs. Fleck.

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

Bills

Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to approve the following bill, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mr. Szabo:

Secretary: \$ 180.25

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

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

Old Business

Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LC) – Open Space Map:

A discussion was held regarding the map. Mr. Klimek stated he forwarded a letter to the LC indicating the map was acceptable. Following the discussion, Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to accept the Open Space Map dated September 20, 2012, as corrected, seconded by Mr. Klimek.

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

Mr. Klimek recommended including the Open Space Map in the Master Plan and Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to forward a letter to the Planning Board and Township Committee recommending the adoption of the map as part of the Master Plan, seconded by Mr. Klimek.

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

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to recommend payment to the Land Conservancy by the Township Committee as the Environmental Commission completed the task during the calendar year to meet the demands of the Committee, seconded by Mr. Klimek.

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

Trail Map Update: Mr. Klimek reported the area will be mowed again and signage will be posted this week. Mr. Klimek will walk the trail to inspect its condition and he indicated the name of the trail is the Arctic Meadows Trail.

No Litter Signs: The Commission reviewed the township map and determined signs should be placed in the following locations:

- 1 – Maple Road, aka Route 521
- 2 – Old Schoolhouse Road
- 3 – Route 610 in the area of the County Garage
- 4 – Paulins Kill Lake Road, aka Route 614
- 5 – Route 622, Swartswood Road by the firehouse
- 6 – East Shore Drive, aka Route 619, in the area of Swartswood State Park

- 7 – West Shore Drive, aka Route 521, in the area of Mary Jones Road
- 8 – Route 612, in the area of Veterans Memorial Park
- 9 – Middleville Road, in the area of Volunteer Field
- 10 – Saddleback Road, in the area of the twin bridges
- 11 – Hampton Road, in the area where it meets Copeley Road
- 12 – Mt. Benevolence Road, north of Owassa Road, in the area of Quick Pond (Route 617)
- 13 – Route 610, south of LC Service parking lot

It was suggested that two to three additional signs be ordered for replacement. The signs will be paid for through the Clean Communities Grant. Mr. Branagan will obtain pricing for the signs and two-part posts. Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to approve the sign placement and ordering, seconded by Mr. Szabo.

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

Idling: Mr. Szabo referenced a recent newspaper article regarding vehicle idling. It estimated that six billion gallons of gas per year are wasted due to idling.

Tree Cutting Ordinance: This item was tabled.

Sustainable Jersey Certification: No report

Stream Water Testing: Mr. Branagan has been in contact with QC Labs and the testing will take place on October 31st. He requested volunteers to join him at 8:45 a.m. Mr. Szabo offered to assist. The lab will pick the samples up at noon and the cost is \$1,318, having eliminated two parameters.

Owassa Road: Mr. Branagan investigated the construction being done on the road which was questioned at the last meeting. The Zoning Official advised Mr. Branagan that all work is legitimate with proper permits having been obtained. The facility will be utilized as a church retreat.

Open Space Brochure: All necessary revisions have been made and brochure finalized. Mr. Klimek made a **motion** recommending the printing of the brochure, seconded by Mr. Branagan. Funding has been appropriated in the 2012 EC budget.

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

New Business

Mr. Szabo referenced a recent newspaper article in the New Jersey Herald indicating a “mile-a-minute” invasive weed has appeared in Sparta. This particular weed grows so quickly it can cover a two-story building in one growing season.

Solar Energy Article: Mr. Klimek reported the article is out of date as SREX’s are now down to \$65.00.

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

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road asked what type of salt the township uses and if there is a better kind to use on the roads. The EC indicated the material is purchased by the County.

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

Planning Board Liaison Report: Mr. Branagan reported the final revision of the Master Plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The Planning Board is currently considering an ordinance limiting the height of agricultural buildings to 35 feet. Steven Grodsky (the individual who compiled the water sampling data in the past) has been researching the relationship between wind turbines and bat/bird mortality.

PSE&G Power Line Project: Ms. Chammings and Mr. Branagan inspected projected power line sites for wetlands and vernal pools. Mr. Branagan would like to look for evidence of vernal pool and amphibian activity. There are numerous PSE&G maps available at the Municipal Building regarding the power lines. The DEP issued approval for the electric lines on October 12th. Ms. Chammings reported work is not expected to start in the township before 2014 and the permit expires in 2017. Ms. Chammings cited two specific mentions of the township in the documentation, one on page 18

regarding the need for archeological approach on a specific road. Also, there is \$152,000 available for mitigation of historic properties in Sussex and Warren counties.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings

Ms. Chammings reported that Committeewoman Straway, Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Vreeland met with Cindy Randazzo of the NJDEP. They inspected the Neldon Brook mitigation completed following last year's storms and she approved of the work. "Scouring" at Veteran's Memorial Park was also inspected. Ms. Randazzo believes it will cause future flooding unless removed, however it will be necessary to file a permit application since the work was not done within the time frame allowed for the original permit. Ms. Randazzo suggested keeping the EC in the loop regarding the work and providing the EC the opportunity to comment. The EC agreed to obtain a copy of the "bullet list" which has not yet been developed.

Shade Tree Commission: A packet was distributed indicating there is \$3,000 in grant funding available.

EC 2013 Budget Worksheet: This item will be reviewed and immediately submitted following the November meeting.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

Transcribed by: Margaret Emmetts