

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 19, 2012**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Klimek, 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.

Mrs. Fleck arrived at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of October 12, 2012, seconded by Mrs. Emmetts.

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

Bills

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mrs. Tracey:
Secretary: \$ 180.25

New Jersey Herald – October meeting date change: \$14.40

New Jersey Herald – November meeting date change: \$ 9.30

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

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

Brian Blanchard, Wall Street reported that his son, Ian, asked him to offer his apologies to the Commission as he was unable to attend the meeting tonight. He is still in Nepal and communication has been difficult. Ian is still very interested in pursuing a municipal orchard and will attend a meeting as soon as he returns, hopefully in December.

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

Correspondence:

ANJEC: Solar Siting and Sustainable Land Use

CentraState Healthcare Foundation: A letter was received from the hospital thanking members of the EC for their personal donation in memory of Mrs. Wunder's father. Mrs. Wunder also thanked the EC members for their generosity and thoughtfulness, as well as Mrs. Emmetts for her notes on the minutes for the October meeting, all was greatly appreciated.

Old Business

Municipal Orchard Update: This item will be added to the December agenda.

Open Space Map and Brochure - Printing: Following a brief discussion, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to authorize Mr. Branagan to contract for the printing of the Open Space Brochure, cost not to exceed \$500.00, seconded by Mr. Branagan. If the pricing allows, 1,000 copies will be printed on heavy gloss paper, folded.

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

Trail Map Update: No Report. This item will be added to the December agenda.

No Litter Signs: Mr. Branagan will obtain signage catalogs from the DPW and CFO to price the cost of the signs and hardware. The signs will be funded through the Clean Communities Grant, subject to the approval of the CFO.

Tree Cutting Ordinance: Mr. Branagan drafted an amendment to be added to the tree protection ordinance and read it into the record as follows:

Homeowners and land owners in Stillwater Township that do not have a woodland management plan may not cut more than four healthy trees in one calendar year without obtaining a permit from the Zoning/Building Department. Before a

permit is issued, a member(s) of the Environmental Commission will inspect the property and trees to be cut. Trees to be cut should be marked with a ribbon or other identifying material. Once a recommendation is made by the Environmental Commission, the permit and the number of trees to be cut will be issued. Dead and diseased trees should not be included in the number of trees to be removed.

The amendment will prevent clear cutting and provide enforcement for the Zoning Officer. Clarification will be obtained on the appropriate department for issuance of the tree permit – Zoning or Building. The amendment will be subject to the review of the Planning Board Attorney. A lengthy discussion was held by the EC and Mr. Szabo expressed concern with imposing on a property owner’s rights. Mrs. Fleck was concerned with clear cutting and felt protection against such was needed. Mrs. Emmetts suggested specifying the number of trees permitted to be removed based on lot size and/or on a percentage basis. Mr. Nystrom felt the EC needed to consider protecting the lakes as cutting can result in lawns that contribute to erosion and lake pollution. Mr. Szabo suggested obtaining a model ordinance from ANJEC. Mr. Szabo referred to John Regalo, a member of the Stanhope EC, who informed him of a proposed bill regarding a reasonable way to handle huge amounts of trees and brush on public property and park land using a management plan and harvesting for designated uses and income. Mr. Szabo referenced the forestry plan at Camp Towadena and the resulting \$10,000 in income for the township.

Mr. Branagan noted the ordinance would pertain to an individual without a management plan. He will review the matter further with ANJEC and the Zoning Officer.

Sustainable Jersey Certification: No report.

Stream Water Testing: Mr. Branagan and Mr. Szabo will conduct the water sampling on November 20th. Water sampling site containers were labeled by the EC for each site.

New Business

2013 Budget Worksheet Review:

Following review of the Budget Worksheet for 2013, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to forward the following Budget recommendations to the Township Committee, seconded by Mrs. Tracey:

Salaries & Wages:	\$2,350.00
Advertising:	\$ 125.00
Forms/Books:	\$ 100.00
Office Supplies:	\$ 175.00
Postage:	\$ 100.00
Membership:	\$ 350.00
Environmental Resource Inventory:	\$1,500.00
Community Outreach/Events:	\$ 200.00
Seminars/Training:	\$ 300.00
Open Space Brochure:	\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous:	\$ 300.00
Total:	\$5,800.00

The EC removed the water testing line item for 2013 and created a line item for the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI), requesting the same amount of \$1,500.00. The EC also created a line item for Community Outreach/Events, appropriating \$200.00. The ERI has been completed and needs to be updated and copies printed for distribution to the EC, Planning Board and Township Committee for adoption consideration. The Community Outreach line item will be used for such events as Stillwater Day, and providing information to the public on items such as septic systems, etc. The EC also chose to maintain the line item for the Open Space Brochure for additional printing and updating costs.

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

Annual Report 2012: The 2012 Annual Report draft composed by Mrs. Emmetts was distributed to the EC for their review. This item will be added to the December agenda for approval.

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.

Planning Board Liaison Report: Mr. Branagan reported the final draft of the Master Plan will be forwarded to the Township Committee for consideration and public hearing on 11/28/12., with recommendation for adoption. An ordinance was also forwarded to the Township Committee regarding an increase in the permitted height of agricultural buildings not to exceed 35', for consideration and adoption. A study was conducted by Steve Grodsky on wind turbines and bat/bird mortality.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings
Ms. Chammings had no report. The next Township Committee meeting will be held on 11/20/12.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson