

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 12, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Szabo, Mrs. Tracey, Mr. Nystrom, Ms. Kathy Fobes-Jacoby, Mr. Klimek, Mr. Branagan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Fleck, Mrs. Emmetts, Ms. Ramberg

Mr. Branagan called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 Middleville, New Jersey.
The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Minutes

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the minutes of November 14, 2011, seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby.

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

Bills

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mr. Klimek:

Secretary \$ 180.25

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Klimek, 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 7:15 p.m.

Committeewoman Straway provided information on the Sustainable Jersey Program that she obtained at the League of Municipalities Convention, to be distributed to the EC.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:17 p.m.

Correspondence:

PSE&G – November 2011, Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit Application Notice to Neighboring Landowners and Local Agencies

Sustainable Jersey Certified – received from Mrs. Straway

Sustainable Jersey Benefits – received from Mrs. Straway

PSE&G Public Hearings Announcement: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 Fernwood Hotel and Resort, Route 209, Bushkill, PA 18324; Wednesday, January 25, 2012 Stroudsmoor Country Inn, RD#4 Stroudsmoor Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360; Thursday, January 26, 2012 Farmstead Golf and Country Club, 88 Lawrence Road, Lafayette, NJ 07848

Post article dated 10/23/2011: “Fracking Gets a Clean Bill of Health”

NY Times article dated 11/29/11: “Millions Spend in Albany Fight to Drill for Gas”

Sussex County Tea Party Patriots Present: *New!* Connecting Sustainable Jersey to United Nations Agenda 21, American Legion, 20 Yates Avenue, Newton, NJ 07860, December 14, 2011, 6 p.m.

Mr. Szabo asked to schedule a speaker to provide a presentation on Agenda 21 and Sustainable Jersey certification. He originally requested to have the presentation before the Township Committee, however the Committee felt it should be sponsored at an EC meeting with the Township Committee invited to attend. Following a brief discussion, the EC agreed to tentatively schedule the presentation for the January 9, 2012 EC meeting, providing Ms. Ramberg will be in attendance. If the speaker is not available for January, the presentation will be scheduled for the February 13, 2012 meeting.

Old Business:

Land Conservancy (LC):

Mr. Klimek reviewed the following report submitted by the Land Conservancy (LC) dated December, 2011.

Open Space Map

We continue to work on this issue. We have received the Mod IV parcel data that goes with the map from the Engineer, but there are issues that remain. Essentially we have to walk through every parcel again. We can do this, but it will not be quick. We have included this activity in your contract for next year and Planning assures me it can be completed in the first quarter of next year.

Open Space Brochure

This has been completed (utilizing the map made last year). We have sent it over digitally, and have also sent hard copies – five copies on brochure paper, and five on plain paper that you can write on, in case there are any other revisions necessary. When the new map is completed next year, we will revise the brochure to include it.

Outreach

We will be developing a spreadsheet for landowner outreach to owners of open space parcels that would be good additions to State land, to try to develop more Green Acres offerings for 2012. We will forward the spreadsheet for your review as soon as it is complete.

The LC also submitted a confidential report which was reviewed by the EC.

The EC reviewed the Open Space Brochure making the following changes:

- The second “s” in Swartswood is omitted several times and needs to be added.
- Camp Nobebosco should be No Be Bo Sco
- Add “approximate location” next to the fish icon on the map legend
- Remove “Spring Lake” as it is located in Hampton
- Remove “Camp Kiamesha” and replace with “Quick Pond”
- Remove all references to “Pond Brook Park” and replace with “Veteran’s Memorial Park” on both the map and document
- Remove “Lower Crandon Lake”
- If possible, add “Appalachian Trail” to the map

Mr. Klimek will forward all corrections to the LC and a final draft will be emailed to Mrs. Wunder.

A discussion was held on the distribution of the brochure as a draft to the school and at the Municipal Building asking for public input. Mrs. Straway felt the corrections should be made by the EC and only the final product should be distributed. Mrs. Wunder indicated funding is constrained at the time, and Mrs. Straway explained there is a non-emergency spending freeze until the budget has been reviewed due to the costs related to the unforeseen storms and flooding that have occurred in the recent months. Mrs. Wunder would obtain a quote from Staples on the cost to copy a draft of the Open Space Brochure on both regular paper and glossy paper.

Trail Map Update: No report. This item will be added to the next agenda.

Veteran’s Memorial Park (VMP) Invasive Plant Removal:

The SLAP program removed the invasives at VMP during the weekend of November 21, 2011 and the area looks great.

Annual Report 2011:

The EC reviewed the 2011 Annual Report, adding the names of members who took part in certain events and activities. Mrs. Wunder would update the report and email it to the EC for final review, and would then forward a copy to the Township Committee.

Sustainable New Jersey (SJ): Ms. Fobes-Jacoby reported the township is now registered and a log-in and password have been provided. The logo can be used on the website. She reported she attended an SJ webinar last Tuesday and felt it was going to be an enormous amount of work and a subcommittee should be formed. The process involves gathering individuals from other aspects of the municipality such as the school, municipal, etc. The certification is based on a point system, spreadsheet style and she referred to a spreadsheet from Cherry Hill. The Green Team must establish a long term goal and a timeline to accomplish

it. Guidelines are offered and will involve input from the EC. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby encouraged all to access the webinar for further information and she noted the process will take a minimum of two years depending on the goal. She referred to West Milford's progress creating a farmer's market. Mr. Szabo asked for a sample spreadsheet to be provided to the EC for their review, possibly one from West Milford and also Cherry Hill.

Ms. Fobes-Jacoby briefly explained the different levels for certification, Bronze and Silver, and noted priorities need to be chosen for each. Mrs. Straway reported that both Frelinghuysen and Hardyston were awarded \$10,000 each in Sustainable Jersey grant funding at the League of Municipalities Convention. She provided their contact information and noted Andover held a kick-off event for the program and may be contacted as well. Mrs. Straway explained the township may already be eligible for points at this time, including art and music requirements, which the school is involved in. She noted Stillwater School has established a Green Team, she is liaison to the school board and offered her help if needed. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby will provide a list of Sustainable Jersey choices for the next meeting for EC review. The EC briefly reviewed the Sustainable Jersey *Certified* pamphlet and the Bronze and Silver requirements.

Green Team Appointments:

The EC agreed the Green Team appointments for 2012 would remain the same as 2011 and the following resolution would be provided to the Township Committee for consideration:

Resolution of the Township of Stillwater
2012-

Resolution Supporting Participation in Sustainable Jersey
Municipal Certification Program

WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments as steps to building a sustainable community that will thrive well into the new century; and WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater hereby acknowledges that the residents of the Township of Stillwater desire a stable, sustainable future for themselves and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Stillwater wishes to support a model of government which benefits our residents now and far into the future by exploring and adopting sustainable, economically-sound, local government practices; and WHEREAS, by endorsing a sustainable path, the Township of Stillwater is pledging to educate itself and community members further about sustainable activities and to develop initiatives supporting sustainable local government practices; and

WHEREAS, as elected representatives of the Township of Stillwater, we have a significant responsibility to provide leadership which will seek community-based sustainable solutions to strengthen our community;

WHEREAS, that to focus attention and effort within the Township of Stillwater on matters of sustainability, the Township Committee wishes to pursue local initiatives and actions that will lead to Sustainable Jersey certification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater, that we do hereby establish a Green Team Advisory Committee consisting of seven members who shall be residents, or employees of Stillwater Township, appointed annually, term of appointment shall be through December 31, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Team Advisory Committee shall have the following goals and objectives:

1. Through the implementation of Sustainable Jersey Action Items achieve Sustainable Jersey certification for the Township of Stillwater.
2. Make further recommendations as to which Sustainable Jersey Actions Items to pursue beyond the Township of Stillwater certification.
3. Make reports to the Township Committee as to the progress of the Green Team Advisory Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater that the following persons are hereby appointed to the Green Team Advisory Committee for 2012:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>
Jack Branagan	Citizen
Paul Klimek	Citizen
Ed Szabo	Citizen
Margaret Emmetts	Citizen
Susan Ramberg	Citizen
Anna Marie Fleck	Citizen
Cindy Tracey	Citizen
Mike Nystrom	Citizen Alternate #1
Kathy Fobes-Jacoby	Citizen Alternate #2

New Business

2012 EC Newsletter:

The last newsletter was distributed to the EC for their review and input. Recommendations and submissions are to be made at the next EC meeting and the newsletter will be updated and issued during 2012.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:45 p.m.

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road reported there are PSE&G contractors in the area and he expressed concern with trespassing on properties with heavy equipment and crossing swamp, wetland areas, and turtle bogs and leaving deep trenches in their wake affecting water flow. He noted there is a language barrier between residents and the workers. Mr. Steckowich stated he received notification from PSE&G that a new permit is being applied for an upgrade. He has contacted the NJDEP and sent a letter to the Township Committee with no response. He felt PSE&G does not abide by the rules and it must be addressed. Mr. Branagan stated ruts were also left on his property and he contacted PSE&G who promised they would be addressed. He asked Mr. Steckowich to provide a list of his concerns to the Commission.

Mr. Steckowich mentioned there may be a drainage issue at the Municipal Building as the floor tiles are lifting up in the meeting room.

The EC briefly discussed the flooding issue on West End Drive.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 9:00 p.m.

Planning Board Report: Mr. Branagan reported there was a brief meeting held on November 16, 2011. He had no report.

Township Liaison Report: No report.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Ms. Fobes-Jacoby. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

Next Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2012 (Regular/Reorganization)