

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
January 10, 2011**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Emmetts

Mrs. Wunder 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 Middleville, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

At this point, Mr. Szabo informed those present that the sister-in-law of Mr. Steckowich was a victim in the Arizona shootings.

**Appointment of Chairperson:** Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to appoint Mr. Branagan as Chairperson for 2011, seconded by Mrs. Fleck; there being no other nominations, nominations were closed and roll call was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Nystrom yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

At this point, the meeting was turned over to Chairperson Branagan.

**Appointment of Vice-Chairperson:** Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to appoint Mr. Klimek as Vice-Chairperson for 2011, seconded by Ms. Ramberg; there being no other nominations, nominations were closed and roll call was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Nystrom yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**Secretary:** Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to appoint Kathy Wunder as the Secretary for 2011, seconded by Mr. Klimek.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Nystrom yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**2011 Meeting Dates and Official Newspaper:** Mr. Branagan made a **motion** to designate the Daily New Jersey Herald and Sunday Herald as the official newspapers for legal publication for the Environmental Advisory Commission, and to accept the following meeting dates for 2011, seconded by Mr. Klimek:

January 10, 2011 Regular/Reorganization	July 11, 2011
February 14, 2011	August 8, 2011
March 14, 2011	September 12, 2011
April 11, 2011	October 13, 2011 (Second Thursday)
May 9, 2011	November 14, 2011
June 13, 2011	December 12, 2011
	January 9, 2012 Reorganization/Regular

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Nystrom yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**Minutes**

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of December 13, 2010, as corrected, changing "Mrs." Nystrom to Mr. Nystrom under Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Fleck.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes

### **Bills**

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mr. Klimek: Secretary \$ 180.25

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:07 p.m. and there being no public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:07 p.m.**

### **Correspondence:**

#### **•2011 Smart Planning Grant**

#### **•Email – Roger Gutzwiller, Chairman of the Blairstown Environmental Commission**

In the email received by Mr. Branagan, Mr. Gutzwiller asked if the EC would be interested in participating in a joint Environmental Commission meeting among neighboring towns. At this point the following townships have agreed to take part in the meeting: Knowlton, Hope, Frelinghuysen, and Hardwick. The EC was very interested and agreed that joint projects could be discussed such as working in conjunction with the other communities on a 2011 Smart Planning Grant, possibly for the Paulinskill River, which runs through all of the towns.

### **Old Business**

**•Letter dated 12/13/10 from Bill Steckowich, re: Township Christmas Tree:** The EC discussed Mr. Steckowich's letter expressing concern with the location of the Christmas tree and its proximity to a Black Walnut tree. Mr. Steckowich was present and stated that the Black Walnut tree emits a chemical that is deadly to evergreens within 3 to 4 years. He felt the tree should be moved while the roots are still in the ball, to a location approximately 10 to 15 feet from the Black Walnut tree. Mrs. Fleck commented that the tree was planted extremely close to the road and asked if the EC was consulted on the location. The EC was not, and Mrs. Wunder noted that it was a Recreation Commission (RC) event. Mr. Steckowich stated he had spoken with the RC Chair and she was not consulted on the location, and he noted that power lines also run over the evergreen. Mr. Branagan stated he would visit the site and he asked if the Township Committee was informed of Mr. Steckowich's concerns. Mr. Steckowich indicated they were.

**Stream Water Testing Results and Comparison to Prior Years:** The EC reviewed the results compared to previous years, and Mr. Branagan asked Mr. Nystrom if it would be possible to obtain State standards for water testing parameters.

**Mr. Branagan reviewed the site locations as follows:**

Site #1: Old Schoolhouse Road at Hardwick border, off Old Schoolhouse Road along dirt road on Blair Academy property, below confluences of north and south branch of Blair Creek.

Site #2: Fairview Lake Road bridge past Owassa Road, off Fairview Lake Road downstream from bridge about 50 feet.

Site #3: Pond Brook Road at Middleville Road, off Pond Brook Road downstream from Middleville Road about 100 feet.

Site #4: Mt. Benevolence Road before Hampton Road, off Mt. Benevolence upstream about 50 feet from the bridge before the intersection of Mt. Benevolence Road and Hampton Road.

Site #5: Hampton Road bridge, off Hampton Road about 50 feet downstream from the bridge.

Site #6: Swartswood Road bridge, off Swartswood Road about 50 feet downstream from bridge by "Mengos Pizzeria."

Site #7: Main Street Bridge, off Main Street about 50 feet downstream from bridge by the Grist Mill.

Site #8: Keen's Mill just before the falls.

Site #9: Paulinskill River just after the falls in the spillway.

Mr. Branagan provided a map of the sites to Mrs. Wunder to be copied for the EC members.

Mr. Klimek noted that the State has adopted new regulations with respect to farm animals.

Manure must be controlled and a plan must be in place and submitted to the State by March; and animals are no longer permitted in waterways. The State will be the enforcing agency on the new policy.

**Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LC)/Open Space Map:** Mr. Klimek reported that he is waiting for the new tax map to be completed prior to finalizing the Open Space Map. The Land Conservancy 2010 Annual Report was submitted to the township.

**Trail Map:** No report.

**Carry In/Carry Out Policy at Veteran's Memorial Park:** The EC discussed the correspondence that was exchanged between the EC and the Township Committee regarding the policy. Mrs. Wunder stated the last memorandum that was sent from the EC to the TC asked the Committee to install the littering/dumping prohibited sign and initiate a carry in, carry out policy. No response was received from the Committee and there has been no resolution to the matter at this time. Mr. Szabo stated that a carry in, carry out policy has been instituted at Swartwood State Park and the Superintendent of that park has indicated it has not been very successful. Following further discussion, the EC agreed to forward a copy of the correspondence regarding the matter to the RC for their review and input. The EC also agreed that this item will be added to the list of matters to be addressed during a joint subcommittee meeting between the EC and RC.

**Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace (OWB):** Mr. Branagan reported that a subcommittee meeting was held consisting of the following members of the Planning Board: Mr. Branagan, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Feenstra, and Mrs. Pflugh to review the proposed outdoor wood burning furnace ordinance and the following suggestions were made:

1. List the ordinance as a conditional use.
2. Use of OWB is to be limited from October 1 through May 1.
3. New owner must sign Affidavit of Knowledge.
4. New owner must supply a list of all neighbors within 200 feet of the property line.  
Planning Board will supply owner with informational pamphlet.
5. New owner must provide proof of prevailing winds and topography of area.
6. Adjust setbacks to be the same as the model ordinance.

After reviewing the suggestions, the EC discussed #6, the setback from a residence. Mr. Klimek felt it should be 300 feet to provide protection to all homeowners affected by the installation of an OWB. The EC was unsure of the proposed distance. Mr. Branagan would compare the proposed ordinance with the draft ordinance and address the matter with the OWB subcommittee. Mrs. Wunder would email a copy of each ordinance to Mr. Branagan.

**E-Waste Management:** Mr. Branagan will contact Renee Capasulla at the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) regarding e-waste disposal and the possibility of obtaining a dumpster for Stillwater.

Ms. Ramberg expressed concern with battery disposal at the Recycling Center, explaining that there seems to be some confusion as to the disposal method for lithium and button batteries. Mrs. Wunder will follow-up with Mr. Whitehead, Recycling Coordinator, to see if this can be

addressed more clearly, and the need for a separate disposal area for these types of batteries. The e-waste and battery information will be added to the EC website, including a link to the SCMUA.

#### New Business

**Open Space Tax – Recommendation:** No recommendation was made.

**Land Conservancy Contract/2010 Report and Recommendation:** The Land Conservancy submitted their 2011 contract with no increase in fee; it will remain at \$11,500. The contract allows the Land Conservancy to pursue and negotiate open space in the township and the fee to do so is funded through the Open Space Trust Fund.

Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to recommend the Township Committee enter into the 2011 contract with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey to manage the open space needs for Stillwater Township at a fee of \$11,500, funded through the Open Space Fund, noting there was no increase in the fee from 2010, seconded by Ms. Ramberg.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Fleck, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Ms. Ramberg, yes, Mr. Nystrom, yes, Mr. Klimek, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

**Clean Communities/Joint RC/EC Meeting:** At the December meeting, Ms. Chamings provided a copy of a 2004 email from Otto Schneider and Jack Craig, former EC members, regarding passive recreation at Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP). She asked for a joint subcommittee meeting to be held between the EC and the Recreation Commission (RC). Ms. Chamings expressed concern with VMP being overgrown and litter issues at the park. She explained that she is interested in holding three Clean Up Days, one for the entire township, one for the parks and possibly one for the waterways. She noted that no Clean Communities Coordinator has been appointed. She felt if one was appointed that person could work in conjunction with the EC and RC. Ms. Chamings would like the EC and RC to approach the Township Committee to request the appointment of a Coordinator. The EC members present agreed with Ms. Chamings and this item will be added to the next agenda as Ms. Chamings was not present at tonight's meeting to discuss further.

**ANJEC 2011 Planning Grant Announcement:** Mr. Klimek spoke on the 2011 Sustainable Land Use Planning Grants and eligibility. He will email ANJEC regarding eligibility and this item will be added to the next agenda. Mr. Klimek noted that matching funding would be difficult to obtain in this economy. Mr. Branagan stated this item would be discussed further during the joint EC meeting with neighboring towns. Mrs. Straway felt it would be more feasible with joint funding from several municipalities.

**Planning Board Liaison Report:** No report as the December meeting was cancelled.

**Township Liaison Report:** Committeewoman Straway was present and she introduced herself to the EC. She asked for copies of the correspondence regarding the carry in carry out policy. She informed the EC that Committeeman Fisher is the Clean Communities liaison and she thought Keith Whitehead was appointed as the Clean Communities Coordinator. Mrs. Wunder will confirm this information with the Clerk.

#### **Zoning Board Application Site Survey:**

**Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless,** Block 3101, Lot 13, Cal. No. 566 - to be conducted by Mr. Szabo.

Mr. Branagan asked that members conduct the inspections on a rotating basis so that the same member is not completing the survey every time.

An informational packet provided by Mr. Szabo was distributed to the EC including media articles on environmental issues.

**Other Comments/Reports:** None

Mr. Branagan asked that a second public session be added to the agenda from this point forward to allow input following the agenda items.

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:30 p.m.**

**Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road** asked the EC to adjust the agenda, using letters to list the subsections under Old and New Business.

Mr. Steckowich spoke on the stream water testing, questioning the accuracy of the levels of coliform at the Mack Farm due to the cows in the waterway, noting the level would vary depending on the time of testing.

Mr. Steckowich expressed concern with fluorescent light disposal and the recycling methods for such. Mr. Branagan will follow up with Ms. Capasulla at the SCMUA.

Mr. Steckowich stated that Frelinghuysen has saved \$10,000 by using beet juice with salt to treat the roads. He questioned the high phosphate content and its effect on the waterways as it causes algae to grow. He suggested the EC consider obtaining a grant to conduct a study on the subject. Stillwater may want to consider using beet juice in the future for the cost savings.

Mr. Steckowich asked if the RC could send a letter to each sports organization requesting each to assign someone to oversee garbage disposal at VMP after a practice or game. Mr. Branagan stated this issue will be covered during the joint RC/EC subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Steckowich asked if the EC should have a liaison to the RC. Mr. Branagan stated this item too can be addressed during the joint subcommittee meeting.

**There being no public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:52 p.m.**

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Fleck. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

**Next Meeting:** February 14, 2011