

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 11, 2011**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Emmetts

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 Middleville, New Jersey.

The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

The Environmental Commission welcomed new appointee Kathy Fobes-Jacoby. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby was sworn in by the Clerk as an Alternate #2 member with a term expiring 12/31/11.

Minutes

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to approve the minutes of March 14, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.

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

Bills

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

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

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:06 p.m. and there being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:06 p.m.

Correspondence:

Mr. Szabo reported he received an email from the Joint Environmental Commission group to schedule another meeting. He will ask Nathaniel Sajdak and Ernie Hofer, both water experts, to attend. They are currently working on a grant funded study of C-1 waterways, specifically the Paulinskill. When a date is set for the next meeting Mr. Szabo will let Mrs. Wunder know so she can inform the EC members. Mr. Szabo asked Mr. Hofer about the surface water standard levels, and he agreed to review the stream water testing results and provide comment. Mrs. Wunder will mail Mr. Hofer the results.

Old Business

Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LC): A confidential report, re: update on open space and farmland projects, from the LC was provided to the EC for their review. The report included maps of three properties. Mr. Klimek reported that the Schuler property closed in March.

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

Outdoor Woodburning Furnace (OWF) Ordinance: Mr. Branagan reported the ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Board subcommittee and revisions were made by Mrs. Wunder. The proposed ordinance will be reviewed by the Planning Board at their next meeting and will be

subject to additional revisions by the Zoning Officer. Mr. Branagan will address the concerns expressed by Ms. Ramberg regarding current owners of an OWF and notification of the May through October operation restriction policy.

Joint EC Meeting: Mrs. Fleck attended the meeting and commented that the EC seems to be quite ahead of other such groups. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby liked the idea of pooling the resources of all the communities involved in the joint meeting.

ERI/Open Space Map: Mr. Klimek reported that finalizing the ERI is pending receipt of the digitized tax maps to update the open space map.

Recycling Signs: Mr. Branagan expressed concern with the lack of visibility of the new recycling signs. The battery signs are located on the outside of the shed doors at the center and when the doors are open they are not visible. Mrs. Wunder will have Mr. Whitehead, Recycling Coordinator, contact Mr. Branagan to resolve the matter and move the signs to a better location.

New Business

Resolution Opposing Gas Drilling: A comment form was submitted by Mr. Branagan on behalf of the EC to the Delaware River Basin Commission objecting to the proposed gas drilling; copied to the EC members. Mr. Szabo referred to the Environmental Information Packet he compiled and distributed a few months ago. He informed the EC that there were three articles included in the packet concerning the gas drilling. Ms. Fobes-Jacoby stated there is a program on gas drilling tonight on NJN at 10 p.m. Mr. Klimek explained that the results of gas drilling could be found by googling Rifle, CO and scrolling down southeast to see the area affected. Mr. Branagan urged the EC members to also file comment forms in opposition to the drilling.

Following a lengthy discussion on the Resolution opposing gas drilling, the EC agreed to table the issue until the May agenda to allow the members to thoroughly review the Resolution. More information on the process and its effects are necessary prior to considering the resolution. The resolution originated from the Sierra Club and was submitted by Lisa Chamings to the EC. More information can be obtained at www.nj.sierraclub.org under fracking or hydrofracking. Committeewoman Straway indicated the Township Committee has received a copy of the resolution and she asked the EC to complete the missing information required and she will then bring it back to the Committee for their consideration.

Countywide Solar Program: Mr. Branagan reported he attended a countywide solar program that was held on April 6, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the Freeholders Meeting Room for municipalities. Mrs. Straway also attended the meeting and reported it is a pilot program between the Morris County Improvement Authority and Sussex County. There is \$40,000,000 in grant funding available; with a limited number of projects being accepted. Each municipality is given the opportunity to submit a pool of projects. Mrs. Straway is currently working with Stillwater School, which is an ideal candidate; and other projects can include the Municipal Building, DPW and the fire departments. The solar system would be owned by the installer under a 15 year lease agreement, with zero out of pocket cost to the municipality. In return the municipality receives a discount on their electric as well as a portion of the SREX. Following a lengthy discussion, the EC agreed more information was needed on the grant program prior to endorsing it. Mrs. Straway noted that at this point, she is completing the application and necessary documentation to see if Stillwater will qualify. She will obtain further details and noted a power point presentation is available on the Sussex County website. Mr. Klimek recommended Mrs. Straway contact Sparta Township as they have solar energy and it may have been purchased through a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN), which is being paid off by the SREX. He would like to see a comparison between the lease program and purchasing a system using a BAN.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP): Mr. Klimek contacted John Parke of the Audubon Society regarding the removal of invasive species from VMP. Mr. Parke will look into any grant funding available to do so. Mr. Parke will also follow up with Brian Marsh on the NJDEP permit and whether or not an extension or new permit is necessary.

Site Survey Form Acceptance:

Nextel of New York, Inc. & JCP&L, Block 1703, Lot 21, Cal. No. 569, site survey

Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to accept the site survey form, seconded by Mr. Branagan.

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

Mr. Branagan expressed concern with the proposed PSE&G power line access road possibly crossing wetlands on property located on Fairview Lake Road. Mr. Nystrom stated a General Permit #10 would be required. Mr. Branagan will visit the site again.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:24 p.m.

Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road stated he had five different contractors look at his house for solar and was told it was not worth it at his age unless he pays cash and receives the total benefit himself. Mr. Klimek stated he installed his own solar array and it will be paid for in 16 months. Mr. Steckowich referred to the discussion on gas drilling and stated the Township Committee accepted money for the PSE&G power line project. He asked what would prevent them from doing so for gas drilling if it should ever be offered in the future and he felt the EC should be aware of the possibility.

Lisa Chamings, 928 Mt. Holly Road commended the EC on their knowledge and their pursuit of knowledge on issues. She applauded the EC for reviewing the gas drilling resolution. She noted that Kittatinny Regional High School is considering solar and using a BAN so they will own the system.

Ms. Ramberg recommended providing detailed information and supporting documentation when submitting the resolution to the Township Committee.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:25 p.m.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: Mr. Branagan reported the following:

- There is an open seat on the Planning Board if anyone is interested.
- Camp Neveda application was heard, including discussion on drainage, septic issues and tanks for the sprinkler system.
- Outdoor Wood Furnace ordinance was reviewed by the subcommittee consisting of Mr. Branagan, Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Feenstra. The ordinance will be further reviewed by the PB.
- Protection of township owned lands by increasing zoning for required lot size/acreage was discussed.
- A Rain Garden Workshop will be held on 4/27/11 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; and a Rain Barrel Workshop will be held on 5/5/11 from 4-6 p.m. Both programs will be held at the Hillside Park Building located at 146 Lake Iliff Road in Andover Township.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Straway had nothing to add to her report that was provided during the meeting.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Klimek made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m., seconded by Mr. Branagan. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

Next Meeting: May 9, 2011