

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 13, 2011**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Fleck

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.

Minutes

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to approve the minutes of May 9, 2011, seconded by Ms. Ramberg.

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

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. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Ms. Ramberg, 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 7:07 p.m. and there being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Szabo arrived at 7:08 p.m.

Correspondence: An information packet compiled by Mr. Szabo consisting of environmental media articles was distributed to the EC and made available to the public at the Municipal Building.

Old Business

Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LC): A confidential Land Conservancy report from Sandy Urgo was distributed to the EC providing updated information on the status of pending and completed open space land acquisitions.

Trail Map: Mr. Klimek reported he will be meeting with Mr. Olsen this month. The following website was provided by Ms. Chamings to EC members to review trail grant information:
www.state.nj.us/dep/newsrel/2010/10_0120.htm.

Outdoor Woodburning Furnace (OWF) Ordinance Update: Mr. Branagan reported the OWF ordinance was revised and typographical errors corrected and it will be reviewed by the Planning Board at their meeting to be held on 6/15/11, and hopefully forwarded to the Township Committee for consideration.

Joint EC Meeting: REMINDER: The joint meeting will be held on June 28, 2011 at the Blirstown Municipal Building beginning at 7:30 p.m. Ernie Hofer and Nathaniel Sajdak will be in attendance and will discuss their grant focusing on the Paulinskill River. A legal notice will be

placed in the NJH should there be a quorum from the EC present. Mr. Branagan reported he contacted members of the Fredon EC and they will also attend the meeting.

Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to provide adequate notice of the meeting in the New Jersey Herald, seconded by Mr. Klimek.

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

Recycling Signs: The issue with the location of some of the recycling signs has not yet been addressed. Mrs. Straway agreed to address the matter with Keith Whitehead, Recycling Coordinator. Mrs. Straway reported that when the Middleville Road project begins, extra millings may be available and will be used to repair the road to the Recycling Center.

Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP) Invasive Species: Mr. Szabo contacted the Sheriff's Office to have SLAP remove the invasives from the park. Once the invasives have been identified and marked, SLAP will be scheduled. Invasives at the park include purple loose strife, barberry, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, autumn and Russian olive. Ms. Chammings noted that SLAP has hand tools available to aid with the removal. Mr. Klimek stated the invasives cannot be removed from the area to the left of the ballfield near the stone row as this is a bog turtle area. Mr. Klimek also stated that the last time the invasives were removed, it was done by volunteers and placed into piles, then SLAP used the DPW chipper to clean them up. Ms. Chammings agreed to ask for volunteers at the next Recreation Commission meeting. She will confirm the volunteers with Mrs. Wunder following the 6/30/11 RC meeting and a date for the removal of the invasives can then be scheduled.

New Business

The Watershed Institute: Announcement of 2011 Watershed Institute Grant Program
The Zoning Officer is currently applying for funding through the DEP for a project in Swartswood and Mrs. Wunder will contact her to inquire if it is through the Watershed Institute Grant Program.

2011 Sussex County Open Space Applications: The EC determined there were no eligible projects at this time.

Planning Board Application: Site Survey to be conducted by Mr. Szabo for Fischer, Block 2701, Lot 14.07.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:45 p.m.

Lisa Chammings suggested contacting Wade Wander of Wander Ecological Associates to help identify the invasives at VMP.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:50 p.m.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: Mr. Branagan reported on the Planning Board meeting held on May 18, 2011 as follows:

Fischer Application: The PB recommended the owner make revisions to the map.

Accessory Structure Ordinance: The ordinance was reviewed and sent to the Township Committee for consideration. The ordinance will permit four accessory structures on a property; 1,000 square feet in size, with a 15 foot height restriction; cupolas are permitted up to 4 feet. The ordinance was introduced by the Township Committee and the public hearing will be held on June 14, 2011.

Schmall Application: An extension was granted for 90 days to July 20, 2011. Ms. Ramberg expressed concern with the extension as the application has been before the Board for a very long time without resolution. Mr. Branagan stated Ms. Ramberg may attend the next meeting to voice her concerns. Ms. Ramberg will not be available but will inform the lake association of the extension.

Government Owned Lands: An ordinance is being considered requiring a minimum of 25-acre zoning for government-owned properties with one-dwelling permitted per lot. Impervious coverage is also being addressed under this ordinance.

Outdoor Wood Furnace: The ordinance has been reviewed and revised by the PB, and will be considered at their next meeting to determine if it can be sent on to the Township Committee.

Township Liaison Report: Committeewoman Straway

Mrs. Straway reported the hydro-fracking resolution forwarded to the Township Committee by the EC was unanimously passed. The approval was covered on the front page of the NJH; with only two Sussex County townships adopting such a resolution. Mr. Szabo commented that Mr. Steckowich sent a letter to the Governor regarding the hydro-fracking and he received a response acknowledging his concerns. Mr. Branagan noted that Governor Ridge of Pennsylvania is in favor of hydro-fracking. A brief discussion was held on the adverse effects on the groundwater.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary

Jack Branagan, Chairperson

Next Meeting: July 11, 2011