

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 16, 2014**  
**Regular Meeting**

A REGULAR MEETING of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Scott at 7:00 p.m. noting the meeting date, time and place were duly published in the New Jersey Herald and posted at the Town Hall and advised those present that this meeting was being held in compliance with provisions of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13.

Roll Call was taken and the flag was saluted.

PRESENT: Mayor Scott, Committeewoman Chamblings, Committeeman Fisher, Committeeman Gross, Committeewoman Straway, Municipal Clerk Lynda Knott, Township Attorney Richard Stein

**Regular Session:**

**Ken Syberg, 930 Route 619**, was present to discuss the farmland preservation of his property. He provided a background history on the 113 acre farm located on West End Drive and the farmland preservation process. He asked for the approval of the Township Committee on the preservation of the property, which is ranked number two in the County out of six farms. Funding has been acquired by the Land Conservancy and preservation would be of no cost to the Township. He provided maps and information to the Committee and would like to keep the area rural. Mrs. Straway felt that due to wetland constraints on the property and zoning changes, development would be minimal. Forty-five percent of the municipality is currently preserved in some manner and the population at the school has decreased. Mr. Fisher noted two subdivisions in recent history were never developed due to the economy and tax increases due to the revaluation are a deterrent; development is limited. Mr. Gross referred to a farmland preserved property that was approved by the Committee in the last three years stating taxes do not change when a property is preserved and he is in favor of keeping the area rural. Ms. Chamblings is familiar with the property and is also in favor of keeping it rural noting a portion of the funding through the Land Conservancy is PSE&G mitigation funding. Mr. Scott agreed Stillwater should remain rural and was in support of the preservation.

Mr. Gross made a **motion** to approve Mr. Syberg moving forward with the County for the farmland preservation of his property, seconded by Ms. Chamblings.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Fisher, no, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, no, Mayor Scott, yes

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ALL MATTERS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE IN NATURE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THE ITEMS. IF ANY DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT PARTICULAR ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY ON THE REGULAR AGENDA.**

**Reports:** Stillwater Rescue Squad Monthly and Monthly Day Calls Report of August 2014  
Construction Department Report of August 2014  
Tax Collector Report of August 2014

**Resolutions:**

**2014-093** Authorizing Payment of Lien Redemption B 1501 L16

**Mr. Gross** made a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by **Mr. Fisher**.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chamblings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**Bills List #14:** \$84,906.86

**Resolution:** 2014-094 Payment of Bills

**Mr. Gross** made a **motion** to approve Bill List #14, seconded by **Mr. Fisher**.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Minutes of August 19, 2014 removed; appointment of Recreation Commission member added

**Open Public Session:**

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public.**

**Ed Gleuck, 933 Fairview Lake Lane,** voiced his concerns on the recent adoption of the solar ordinance. He felt it was restrictive with respect to the size allowed of 1,000 square feet. He asked the Committee to reconsider the size permitted as it is limited for a solar array on the average home. He recommended increasing it to 1,500 to 2,000 square feet.

**Jackie Espinosa, JCP&L, 56 Hampton House Road,** warned of utility scams which now include a 1-800 number and she reported that an area patrol helicopter will be flying low over lines in Stillwater for maintenance reasons. Ms. Chammings spoke about a recent incident at her home where an individual driving a vehicle with Pennsylvania license plates and identifying himself as an employee of an energy company asked to see a copy of her utility bill. Ms. Espinosa would report this information back to JCP&L.

**Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road,** met Father Francis Kim to discuss the demolition of his barn on Hardwick Road. After reaching out to other farmers for their help, the barn will be restored rather than torn down.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Mr. Gross** reported the Zoning Board met in August, no applications. Their next meeting will be held on September 22, 2014 and there are several items on the agenda.

**Mr. Fisher** reported insulation is almost completed in the shed at the Recycling Center and sheetrocking will follow to complete the project. Resident Dawn Delaney, who has experience with Newton Day, has submitted an application to serve on the Recreation Commission. The Recreation Commission is pursuing two sets of bleachers, two team benches and three park benches for Veteran's Memorial Park. Mr. Fisher asked for authorization to allow the Township Engineer to draft a plan for County approval to hang banners on County roads in Stillwater for such events as Stillwater Day.

**Ms. Chammings** reported the Environmental Commission (EC) met and questioned whether or not smoke detectors could be recycled. Mr. Fisher indicated that due to a chemical within the detectors they could only be disposed of under hazardous waste. The EC discussed the tonnage grant parameters and E-waste disposal. Ms. Knott indicated she is pursuing an E-waste vendor. Ms. Chammings asked if the old shed at the Recycling Center could be moved to VMP for recycling purposes. Mr. Fisher would follow up with Mr. Hendershot. The EC discussed lake lowering in the area and the invasive Water Chestnut growth in Swartwood Lake. The DPW oil and chipped Sprout Hill Road and Possum Hill Road and are cleaning and repairing drains and cutting back shoulders on Millbrook Road which will be paved on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Hendershot met with Mr. Vreeland regarding possible DOT applications for the upcoming year, including Sprout Hill Road, Ridge Road, and Stillwater Road from the Municipal Building to Five Points. Mr. Vreeland had asked if the PSE&G funding for mitigation could be used toward repairing Hardwick Road which suffered damage from PSE&G equipment, as this would not meet the requirements of the DOT application. Ms. Knott indicated photos of the damage must be taken and submitted to George Sous specifically for this road.

After further discussion, Ms. Chammings made a **motion** to authorize Township Engineer Michael Vreeland to move forward with a DOT grant application for catch basins, pipes and resurfacing of Ridge Road, seconded by Mr. Fisher.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

Mr. Scott reported the Planning Board meeting will be held on September 17, 2014.

Mr. Scott appointed Dawn Delaney to the Recreation Commission filling the unexpired term of Tina Sugar.

Ms. Chammings reported she and Mr. Gross will meet to discuss job descriptions for the Recycling Center.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **Outdoor Public Event Application:**

Deb D'Andrea, owner/applicant, 902 Middleville Road was present. The application was reviewed by Mr. Stein. Ms. D'Andrea indicated 50 people would be in attendance on Sunday, September 28, 2014. No liquor would be provided, the event would be from 4-8 p.m. and different musicians would be performing. A photograph of her property was provided depicting outlined parking areas; the property is a little less than 4 acres. She stated the larger event that caused some concern has been relocated to Walpack. The Certificate of Insurance covers Brook Falls Farm under her name, and the Hobo Stage is an organization she works with that helps the musicians. There is no charge for the event; donations are accepted to pay the musicians and there are two port-a-johns on the property. It was noted the application also requires approval from the Construction Official, Zoning Officer, Fire Prevention and County Health Department. A discussion was held on public vs. private events with respect to the size of an event. Mr. Stein indicated the ordinance does not make any distinction between the two and the Committee can take into consideration the size, non-profit vs. profit, family, etc. for each application. Overflow parking at Veteran's Field was questioned and Mr. Stein indicated it is public property covered by the Tort Claims Act and insurance is also required from the person holding the event.

Ms. Chammings made a **motion** to approve the application, seconded by Mrs. Straway.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

#### **Cat/Dog Ordinance:**

Due to a recent ACO call involving cats, a discussion was held to determine if the ordinance should be amended. The current ordinance requires cat licensing, rabies inoculation and limits the number of cats. Further discussion was held on the fees for a kennel license which are currently \$25 for 10 or more dogs and \$10 for less than 10 dogs. Mr. Stein would draft an ordinance for Committee review at the next meeting.

#### **Retail Food Establishment Licensing:**

Ms. Knott asked to have the food license ordinance amended. Currently licenses lapse on December 31<sup>st</sup> but are not due until March 1<sup>st</sup>, resulting in the possibility of three plus months of the year without a valid license. The licenses run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Scott made a **motion** to amend the Retail Food Establishment License ordinance to run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, with applications due no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Mr. Gross.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Fisher, yes, Mr. Gross, yes, Mrs. Straway, yes, Mayor Scott, yes

**Joint Court:**

Mr. Stein provided a brief background on the possibility of the Green, Fredon, Andover Borough and Hampton Township Court joining the Sussex-Wantage/Stillwater Court, resulting in significant court savings. He reviewed the draft agreement sent to each town and once the total number of participants is determined the Committee could sign the agreement. The more participants in the court system, the more the cost savings will be.

**Green Team Greenfest:** Kathy Fobes-Jacoby

The Greenfest was held on Sunday, September 7, 2014 at the Fairview Lake YMCA with approximately 65 participants in attendance. The event included a bike parade, TransOptions, bike maintenance workshop, composting workshop, plant medicinal walk, apples donated by Windy Brow, apple juice made by the Historical Society, a Touch of Nature presentation, a hybrid and electrical car from Honda and the NJ Electric Car Association. The car association asked the YMCA to consider installing a station and grant funding is available through Sustainable Jersey. The total cost for the event was \$900.

**At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public.**

**Tammy Richardson, Swartswood Fire Department** thanked the Committee for amending the food licensing ordinance. She asked what size event would require an event permit. The ordinance will be revisited in the future to possibly determine a size requirement and other factors will also be considered. **Bill Steckowich, 907 Hardwick Road** expressed concerns about cracking in the pavement on Hardwick Road.

Mr. Vreeland and Mr. Hendershot will walk Hardwick Road and proper documentation would be provided to PSE&G to address any issues.

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

**Attorney Report:** Richard Stein

Mr. Stein reviewed the architect proposal for remodeling the meeting room and suggested an addendum to the agreement indicating payment will be made according to statute and normal billing procedures, and there will be no retainer.

Mr. Stein emailed a draft letter to the Clerk for the Committee to consider regarding Mountain Shadows Campground and park model trailers.

He sent a letter to the Committee regarding the process for an in rem tax foreclosure.

Mr. Stein discussed a past transaction between the Nature Conservancy and the township involving Green Acres grant funding. Mr. Stein is still researching the matter.

There being no further business, Ms. Chamblings made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fisher. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder