

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 8, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Emmetts, Mr. Szabo, Mrs. Tracey, Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Egan, Mrs. Branagan, Mr. Dvorsky, Mr. Branagan

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the minutes of April 10, 2017, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Branagan.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, abstain, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Dvorsky, yes, Mr. Egan, yes, Mrs. Branagan, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Bills

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

Tracey:	Secretary:	\$ 206.93
	ANJEC Webinar (Dvorsky):	\$ 10.00 (to be refunded through petty cash)

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Dvorsky, yes, Mr. Egan, yes, Mrs. Branagan, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Mr. Dvorsky reported the webinar was very informative. It was entitled, "Green Infrastructure and Daylight Streaming." Historically, streams converted into sewers and many were later covered by infrastructure. Pennsylvania has mapped those streams and would like to start uncovering them. Mr. Szabo questioned if streams on private property would be uncovered; Mr. Dvorsky was not sure. He noted the areas discussed were located on municipal properties and the costs are funded through grants or the municipality itself.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:20 p.m.

There being no one from the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed 7:20 p.m.

Correspondence:

CFO Memo dated 4/25/17 – Approved 2017 Budget

Resolution for Energy Efficiency – Renewable Energy (NJ League of Conservation Voters) –*Following discussion and review of required actions, the EC felt this item should be considered further. Ms. Chamings will contact Jackie Espinoza of JCP&L for storm repair costs.*

Old Business

Rain Barrels: Mr. Szabo needs assistance with obtaining a barrel to construct a rain barrel. Ms. Chamings offered five barrels to Mr. Szabo. He will make a rain barrel for Stillwater Day.

Fishing Line Collection: Mr. Connor's son reinstalled the fishing line receptacle on the tree on their property.

ANJEC Presentation:

An email was received from Liz Ritter, ANJEC Deputy Director, apologizing for not being able to make the scheduled presentation in April. She provided information on ANJEC membership benefits and focus areas for EC review. EC 2017 ANJEC membership will be determined at the June 12th meeting.

2017 ANJEC Grant for Open Space and Stewardship: (\$1,500)

Mr. Blanchard reported he met with Michele DeBlasio of the Nature Conservancy; funding is available to obtain trees and plant them within the next month or two. Funding is through a private donor and the trees will come from the Pinelands Nursery. Once documentation is completed, it will be paid by the Nature Conservancy. The funding is available for the spring and they encouraged Mr. Blanchard to do a spring planting. He asked if the EC wished to move forward with the project at this time. The Nature Conservancy will provide tools and materials but no volunteers. We can order as many trees as we would like. Mr. Branagan expressed concern with volunteers for a spring planting. Mr. Blanchard noted he could obtain 100 trees for the spring and another 100 for the fall. He will be leaving shortly after the next meeting and will not be returning until September. Mr. Szabo offered to contact George Lippencott for boy scout volunteers and Mr. Branagan will contact Stillwater School for student participation. The EC agreed with 100 trees for a spring planting. Mr. Egan noted a group of moms that belong to an organization entitled, "Wednesday Forest Friends" may be interested in assisting, possibly on Wednesday, June 7th. Mr. Blanchard would contact the Pinelands Nursery to inquire if trees could be delivered at this time for the fall. Species will include Sycamore, Maple, Dogwood, Swamp White Oak, etc.

EC Newsletter:

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to accept the newsletter as written and to place it on the township website and at town hall for distribution, seconded by Mr. Egan.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mr. Dvorsky, yes, Mr. Egan, yes, Mrs. Branagan, yes, Mr. Branagan, yes

Information Board/Signage at the Recycling Center:

Mrs. Branagan sent an email to Bob Pierce of the County, re: signage and she has not heard back yet. Mr. Branagan will follow-up. Funding will be through the Recycling Trust. A quote and verbiage for the signage will be attached to the requisition. Verbiage will also be provided to the Clerk for Township Committee review.

Fishing Line Collection:

Mr. Branagan requested that those collecting the line make sure the line is clean of leaves/litter and please remove any hooks and lead sinkers attached to the line. Please bring the lead sinkers to the meeting to be recycled.

EC Facebook Page:

Mrs. Wunder will work with the Clerk to establish an EC Facebook page to include environmental information and events for SCMUA. EC members can also email Mrs. Wunder any information they would like included. Mrs. Branagan was not in favor of a Facebook page and expressed concern with public access.

Tree Seedlings:

All tree seedlings (2,000) received were distributed at the Recycling Center over the weekend. Mr. and Mrs. Branagan assisted.

New Business

Trail Boardwalk at Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP):

Mr. Sylvester approached Mr. Branagan regarding installing a boardwalk in small sections on the passive side trail where it is very wet, for handicap access. The EC expressed the following concerns: funding, is it necessary and will it be used, may be costly, and should it be a project done in conjunction with the Recreation Commission. There is currently handicap access to the active side. Ms. Chamblings noted the boardwalk would be a capital request and must be submitted by August for consideration in the 2018 budget. Mr. Branagan will contact Mr. Sylvester and possibly attend a Recreation Commission meeting.

Volunteer Recognition:

- Mr. and Mrs. Branagan for distributing tree seedlings
- Mr. Dvorsky for attending the webinar

Endangered and Threatened Species Sightings:

Wood turtle, red-shouldered hawk, spotted turtle – of special concern

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

There being no one from the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m.

Planning Board Liaison Report: Mr. Branagan

- Stillwater School provided a presentation on their greenhouse, gazebo, and garden project.
- Mr. Branagan suggested rain barrels to water the plants and Mr. Golden will forward rain garden information to the school.
- Commercial/Recreation Zone is being reviewed. The Zoning Officer will provide areas of concern to the Planning Board.

Township Liaison Report: Mayor Chamblings – 4/25/17 Meeting

- 2017 budget public hearing was held and budget was adopted.
- Salary Ordinance was introduced; public hearing/adoption on May 2nd.
- Plymouth Lake Association provided a presentation requesting the township co-sign a loan to repair their dam to be in compliance with NJDEP. The Committee provided questions from the Township Attorney that need to be addressed. The association will attend the May 16th Committee meeting to respond.
- The town hall parking lot project has started.
- The bid opening for the Recycling Center driveway project will be held on May 17th.
- Signs for the town hall and Recycling Center – photo distributed to the EC of proposed sign for the center/ \$1,200 to be constructed as depicted including letters. Sign at town hall will be illuminated; conduit pipe cost is minimal.
- Development of VMP: working on electric service to the park.
- Former Swartswood Fire Department building: response received.
- Five Points Intersection – 100 foot circular radius and 66' right-of-way – will ask property owners to trim back trees; possibly moving stop signs to a better location and installing white lettering.
- 7/16/17: invitation to the public to attend the Township Committee meeting for input on the intersection.
- Updating employee handbook, including DPW job descriptions.
- Bond ordinance was introduced.

Mrs. Emmetts suggested contacting COLA for the Plymouth Lake dam matter. She reported on the COLA meeting; Fred Lubnow from Princeton Hydro provided an algae presentation. It produces toxins

detrimental to people and fish. She suggested he forward the Powerpoint presentation to Blanca Chevrestt at the State Park.

The Swartswood Lake Watershed Association (SLWA) will meet on June 24th at 10 a.m. in the main dining room at Camp Lou Henry Hoover. Currently, they are in the process of having Larry Kovar develop a lake management plan.

Ms. Chammings noted that Lower Crandon Lake growth is being monitored and maintained if necessary.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Szabo. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wunder, Secretary