STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 10, 2026
Regular Meeting
In-Person/Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Branagan, Dr. Mattes, Mr. Szabo, Mrs. Tracey, Ms. Kral, Ms. Coriston
MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Lippencott, Mrs. Emmetts
ALSO PRESENT: Committeewoman Chammings

Ms. Coriston called the meeting to order at 7:04 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

Ms. Coriston made a **motion** to approve the minutes of 6/8/26, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Branagan, yes, Dr. Mattes, abstain, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Ms. Kral, yes, Ms. Coriston, yes

Bills

Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mr. Szabo:
Secretary: $274.00
M. Coriston – Rutgers Climate Change Symposium, June 10, 2026: Reimbursement $100.00/Mileage $76.85
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Branagan, yes, Dr. Mattes, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Ms. Kral, yes, Ms. Coriston, abstain

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:08 p.m.
David deWit, Foodshed Alliance/Paulins Kill Watershed appeared before the Commission to provide a progress report on the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) program. He stated Warren County, Frankford, Branchville and Lafayette are willing to pass resolutions of support. Mr. deWit provided a packet of information including a map of the program area, sample resolution, a project progress timeline and frequently asked question and answer information. He noted two sections from the resolution as follows:
Whereas, The Mayor and Township Committee recognize that support for the designation study to determine the eligibility and suitability for the Paulins Kill and its tributaries to become a Partnership Wild and Scenic River is well merited and has sufficient support throughout the watershed to proceed with the next step of the process, and
Whereas, The Mayor and Township Committee recognize there is no binding commitment or financial obligation given in support of the efforts at this stage of the process.
Mr. Szabo stated that many months ago the EC was asked for their support of the WSR program. At that time, the EC spent a lot of time reviewing the project. He asked if anything had changed since that time and felt Dr. Lippencott should be included in any discussion on the subject as he was an opponent of participating. Mr. deWit stated Ms. Mezzanotte heard Mr. Lippencott's concerns and spoke with both the National Park Service and NJDEP as well as other groups to address those concerns. He understood that the township was concerned with the program's effect on the permitting process, however, supporting a study bill would cause no issue with township permitting or township ordinances. Mr. deWit suggested visiting the Musconetcong office in Asbury to see what the WSR program has done for that area with respect to recreation, tourism, and an automated water quality system. The program is run by a management council with a representative from each participating municipality. It does not change ordinances and there is no eminent domain power. Ms. Coriston noted that Dr. Lippencott had serious concerns with the NJDEP permitting process and property owners being able to make changes to their property. Ms. Kral asked if the response from Ms. Mezzanotte resolved any of those concerns and did the EC respond back. Ms. Coriston stated there was correspondence and a response was provided to Ms. Mezzanotte. She stated many discussions were held in the past and at this point she was not comfortable continuing this one without a full board present. Ms. Coriston felt the EC decision was made and the matter was closed. She thanked Mr. deWit for his update and appreciated his appearance before the Commission. Mr. deWit stated he was not there to reopen it, only to provide an update. If Stillwater is not interested then the Stillwater segment would be dropped.
Mr. deWit stated they will continue to visit municipalities to obtain sufficient study support to bring it to the representatives

to be forwarded onto Congress. Mr. deWit informed the EC that there is also a State WSR program, but the only problem is the Governor makes the designation and has the power to also rescind it. If the Federal government makes the designation, it has to be an act of Congress to rescind it. Ms. Coriston asked how a State program goes above and beyond the NJDEP regulations. Mr. deWit stated that grant funding may be easier to obtain, along with equipment such as weed harvesting machinery for lakes.
Mr. Szabo referred to the Swartswood Lake Watershed Association and their negative experiences with the State. Promises and suggestions have fallen apart along with funding cuts to the lake.
Mr. deWit reiterated that there is no other obligation or commitment other than to support to study the possible WSR designation. He concluded his report at this time and the EC thanked Mr. deWit for the update.
There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:28 p.m.

Correspondence:
-NJDEP Notice of Application: Block 801, Lot 25.02, septic repair
-SC Open Space Committee Minutes – May 28, 2026
-6/16/26 J. Benjamin/W. Russell – 904 Fredon Road (no board application at this time) – *Ms. Chammings reported the vehicles have been cleared.*
-6/20/26 Dr. Lippencott: NJDEP Contaminated Site Remediation & Redevelopment – Submit Your Stalled Brownfield Projects for Expert Support (Gallaghers)
-7/13/26 L. Kral: Fredon Cell Tower Update – *No update at this time.*
-7/22/26 M. Diacik – Japanese Knotweed (Zoning/Code Enforcement) – *Mr. Szabo asked for further information on the Japanese Knotwood invasive. He expressed concern with being asked for information on the property issue and the implications of that in the future. He felt the EC needed to be further informed about the invasive. The resident was referred to the Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer to inquire if any township ordinances provide assistance to address the matter. Mrs. Wunder will provide the information requested to Mr. Szabo for his review.*
-7/24/26 CFO – EC Budget through 7/23/26

Old Business

2026 Sussex County Trails Grant Program – Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) trail improvement:
Ms. Chammings reported the grant application was approved by the County Commissioners. With sufficient in-kind hours, the EC will not be required to meet the 10% reimbursement. The total cost of the trail improvement is $17,500. Twelve of 13 applications submitted were approved.
Mr. Szabo thanked Ms. Chammings and Ms. Coriston for their presentation and work on the project.

EC Discussion - Future guest speakers/presentations:
Ms. Coriston reported that both Steve Mariconda/Dark Sky and Mike VanClef/Strike Team are interested in scheduling a presentation in the fall. Dark Sky has been scheduled for October by Zoom and the presentation will include lighting ordinances. Invasive Strike Force will be scheduled for November, either in-person or Zoom to be determined, and will include discussion on invasives. Ms. Coriston will contact both to confirm.

TREX Program Update:
Ms. Coriston reported the Parsippany distribution center did not work out. She has connected with a grass roots partner facility with their own TREX baler in Stroudsburg, PA. The contributions from the township will be weighed at the facility rather than the school, which makes it a much smoother process.

Fishing Line Collection: No report.

New Business
Rutgers Climate Change Symposium: M. Coriston
***SEE ATTACHED REPORT**
Mr. Szabo referred to his comments at the last meeting regarding whether or not both sides of the climate change argument would be presented at the symposium. He asked if this was the case. Ms. Coriston reported that the State Development and State Energy Panel discussion included very differing ideas, as well as the Educational Panel and the differing ideas of what climate change education should look like.

ANJEC Environmental Congress:
Friday, September 25, 2026; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ
Mrs. Tracey made a **motion** to approve the attendance of Ms. Coriston and Ms. Kral at the ANJEC Environmental Congress @ $130 each, with mileage paid for one as they will carpool to the event, seconded by Dr. Mattes.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Branagan, yes, Dr. Mattes, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Ms. Kral, abstain, Ms. Coriston, abstain

Environmental Commission Volunteer Recognition:
-Ms. Coriston for the TREX program.
-EC members for checking the fishing receptacles.
-Ms. Coriston, Ms. Chammings and the EC for the trail grant application.

Endangered/Threatened Species Sightings:
-Wood turtle
Other sightings included a scarlet tanager, osprey, loons; a great owl was heard.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 8:08 p.m.
There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 8:08 p.m.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: No report.

Township Committee (TC) Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings
*This report includes information from the last four Township Committee meetings. Detailed minutes can be viewed on the township website.
-Five ordinances were introduced and/or considered as follows: 1)Fuel tanks at the DPW $75,000; 2)DPW Tools Purchase; 3)Ban on Data Centers; 4)Access to Elizabethtown Gas service in Paulinskill Lake; 5)Cannabis ordinance was denied
-Five liquor licenses were approved.
-DPW Certified Public Works Manager (CPWM) shared service with Frankford has concluded.
-Current DPW employee has CPWM and was appointed.
-Three new employees were hired at the DPW.
-Shared service with the County for deicing materials was renewed.
-Resolution of Support for the School of Conservation funding was passed.
-New sound system and microphones were installed in the Municipal Building meeting room.
-Discussion was held on the township level regarding short term rental regulations.
-Discussion was held on the continuance of Zoom access to township meetings.
-In the month of May, 87+ cases of tickborne diseases were reported in the County.
-992 Fairview Lake Road – monitoring of wells installed and remediation planning is continuing.
-Zoning Officer is very busy with solar, propane and generator installations due to the recent turbulent weather.
-DPW is also very busy following the recent rash of storms.
-A DPW employee has resigned.
-Clean Up Day is scheduled for October 3, 2026.
-Report will be presented on potential consolidation of the KRHS districts on September 10, 2026 at 6 p.m.
-Bearproof container has been placed at Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Branagan asked Ms. Chammings to remind the Recycling Center employees to update the sign to include #1, #2 and #5 for proper disposal.

Ms. Kral questioned the EC opposition to the WSR program designation. Mrs. Wunder agreed to forward the program information, correspondence and minutes to Ms. Kral for her review.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Szabo made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m., seconded by Ms. Coriston. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Wunder, Secretary