STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 14, 2026
Regular Meeting
In-Person/Zoom

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

Ms. Coriston called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 8/10//26, seconded by Mrs. Tracey.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Branagan, yes, Mrs. Emmetts, abstain, Dr. Lippencott, abstain, Dr. Mattes, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Ms. Coriston, yes

Bills

Mrs. Emmetts made a **motion** to approve the following bills, pending availability of funds, seconded by Mr. Branagan:
Secretary: $274.00
M. Coriston/L. Kral – ANJEC Environmental Congress registration - $130.00 each
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Branagan, yes, Mrs. Emmetts, yes, Dr. Lippencott, yes, Dr. Mattes, yes, Mr. Szabo, yes, Mrs. Tracey, yes, Ms. Coriston, abstain

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:09 p.m.
There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:09 p.m.

Correspondence: None

Old Business

2026 Sussex County Trails Grant Program – Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) trail improvement:
Ms. Chammings reported that quotes are being obtained for the project and they should be able to seed by November. The improvements to the passive side trail will include adding soil, reseeding and widening of the trail. The grant was obtained through the Sussex County Open Space Committee. The Township Committee passed a resolution accepting the grant funding for the project in the amount of $15,316.

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 19th by Zoom.. Invasive Strike Force has tentatively been scheduled for November, either in-person or Zoom to be determined, and will include discussion on invasives. Ms. Coriston will contact both to confirm. Mrs. Emmetts will be unable to attend the November meeting and asked the EC to have the speaker discuss the subject of Lotus during the presentation.

Stream Water Testing Summer 2027: Discussion carried to January 2027 agenda.

TREX Program Update:
Ms. Coriston reported she is pleased with the new drop-off location in Stroudsburg; it is amazing and the facility runs a very smooth operation. She dropped off the summer collection which weighed just under 200 pounds. She will provide an update next month now that the summer has ended. Ms. Coriston will also bring the collection stored in Ms. Chammings' barn, noting she has compacted it for better transporting.

Fishing Line Collection:
Mr. Branagan provided fishing line collection from his receptacles at the meeting. The EC noted seeing very few people fishing in the area overall.

Recycling Center:
Mr. Branagan reported the sign at the Recycling Center is incorrect and needs to be updated to #1, #2, and #5 only, removing #3.
Mrs. Emmetts stated the center needs better, more solid pallets to the paper container. The slotted pallet boards are running the wrong way posing a hazard.
Ms. Chammings will follow up on both issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Board Site Survey:
Block 2301, Lot 12: Application to construct a 40' x 24' pole barn with a 10' x 40' overhang. Dr. Lippencott and Mr. Szabo conducted the site survey and had no concerns.
Mr. Branagan offered to assist with future site survey inspections.

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. Mr. Branagan for providing his collection of fishing line.
-Dr. Lippencott and Mr. Szabo for conducting the Zoning Board application site survey.
-Mrs. Emmetts and Mrs. Tracey for attending the Coalition of Lakes Association (COLA) meeting. Topics included work on Swartswood Lake, insurance and survey fundraising opportunities of up to $10,000, which Mrs. Tracey is considering for Paulinskill Lake.

Endangered/Threatened Species Sightings:
-Very large male bobcat; baby bobcat
Other sightings included a spotted salamander and a bear.

At this point, this portion of the meeting was opened to the public at 7:31 p.m.
There being no members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed at 7:31 p.m.

Planning Board (PB) Liaison Report: Dr. Lippencott
-PB discussed short-term rentals and Airbnb with modification of the existing bed and breakfast ordinance. This item will be discussed further at their September meeting.
-PB is considering revising zoning regulations for smaller lake lots to eliminate the need for variance relief.

Township Committee (TC) Liaison Report: Committeewoman Chammings
-The Zoning Board meeting was cancelled.
-Doug Vaughn has resigned as the Recycling Coordinator; the position will now be shared by Matt Lambert and Valerie Ingles.
-Tammy Leonard has resigned as the Clean Communities Coordinator, effective December 31, 2026. Ms. Chammings recognized Tammy and her daughter Bri for their service and work on Clean Communities items for the township.
-A bear proof receptacle was placed at Veterans Memorial Park.
-A resolution for redemption of a tax certificate for property at 911 Main Street was passed.

-A resolution was passed accepting grant funding for the Veterans Memorial Park trail improvement project from the Sussex County Board of County Commissioners in the amount of $15,316.
-Township is currently seeking grant funding for road improvements on Possum Hill Road and a change order resolution was passed for work on Hampton Road from Mt. Benevolence to the township line.
Minutes will be available after the 9/15/26 Township Committee meeting for those interested.
-Stillwater School will attend the 9/15/26 Township Committee meeting to discuss repairs to their gymnasium.
-For those who missed the presentation at Kittatinny High School on 9/10/26, it is now available on the Stillwater website.
-The Stillwater Historical Society Fall Festival will be held on October 10th from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Stillwater School and the Vass Farm will hold their first fall festival on October 4th from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in Hardwick.
Ms. Chammings discussed an article she recently read on a wildlife project started by a 10-year-old in India when he came across a park covered in trash. Years later, he and his brother continue their initiative entitled Conservation Brothers, protecting natural resources and animals. They spend their time rescuing fish, sea turtles and pelicans caught in discarded fishing line, installing monofilament collection bins and building nesting boxes for wood ducks. Ms. Chammings will email the article to Mrs. Wunder for distribution to the EC.

Dr. Lippencott mentioned the ordinance in Stillwater banning data centers. He reported 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel from a data center spilled into the Hackensack River recently. This is the reality of running such a facility.

Mr. Szabo shared that he had a very large tree fall on his property on Swartswood Lake. Removal of the tree required approval to use a gas-powered barge to do so. The barge was powered by a fuel mixture including olive oil.

Mrs. Emmetts stated a gas-powered boat was recently used by the State Park to rescue a stalled pontoon boat on the lake.

Mrs. Emmetts reported a request has been submitted to the NJDEP for lowering Swartswood Lake. She also reported NJDEP approval for the use of hydro-raking, weed harvesting and use of herbicides on the lake was denied.

Mr. Szabo reported that the Stillwater Historical Society will be holding a reading of the United States Constitution Bill of Rights on 9/17/26 at 4 p.m. at the Community Center. Mr. Szabo has been asked to read the 2nd Amendment.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Coriston made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m., seconded by Dr. Mattes. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Wunder, Secretary