

TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
Scenic Roads & Bridges Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2012 **7:30 PM Mountainville**

The February 9, 2012 meeting of the Scenic Roads and Bridges Commission was called to order by Chairman Wrede at 7:30 PM. In addition to Chairman Wrede, the following SRBC members listed below were present: George Cassa, Kurt Rahenkamp, and Anna Cheng Young.

A quorum was declared by Chairman Wrede, who then read the Open Public Meetings statement.

Five (5) members of the public were also present.

Approval of Minutes: There being no minutes presented for the previous meeting, no approval action was taken.

Reorganization for 2012: Chairman Wrede noted that because a quorum was not obtained for the January meeting, the 2012 reorganization had been postponed to the instant meeting. Chairman Wrede moved the name of Kurt Rahenkamp, and this motion was seconded by Ms. Young. Chairman Wrede then moved the name of George Cassa into nomination for Secretary, which was seconded by Mr. Rahenkamp. The motion for this slate was carried unanimously.

Public Participation: There was no public participation on items not appearing on the meeting agenda.

Discussion Items:

- Student Litter Management: Chairman Wrede recalled that a proposal to engage two (2) local high school students in a public service program to manage a litter control program on the Township's scenic roads was discussed by the SRBC during 2011. This initiative will continue in 2012, pending identification of the appropriate point of contact within the local high school administration / faculty.
- Bridge Inventory: Chairman Wrede stated that the SRBC's inventory of bridges on scenic roads, which was initiated in 2011, will continue with field surveys in 2012.
- DPW Road Maintenance letter to Tewksbury residents dated January 26, 2012: A total of twenty-six (26) municipal roads are listed for maintenance and repair work in 2012, six (6) of which are designated scenic roads. Chairman Wrede will meet with DPW Superintendent Hull to discuss the specific plans for the scenic roads.

- Friends of Fairmount Historic District (FFHD) letter dated January 17, 2012 to Tewksbury Township Land Use Board: This letter requests the LUB to support a proposal to a proposal by FFHD to require JCP&L to include the planting of trees and shrubs at the current flag-lot driveway serving the Kalb and Hernick properties after JCP&L completes the installation of a new dedicated driveway opening onto Rt. 517 for each of the two properties. The current flag lot driveway would be closed, and the trees and shrubs would screen the driveway entrance area. A motion to advise the LUB that SRBC support the FFHD's request was made by Mr. Rahenkamp and seconded by Mr. Cassa. The motion was carried unanimously. Chairman Wrede will submit a letter to this effect to the LUB.

- Review of JCP&L tree removal on Sawmill Road and elsewhere: Mr. Cassa summarized the status of the very aggressive tree removal work being carried out by JCP&L contractors on the utility's rights-of-way on Sawmill, Mountain and Ridge Road. A large number of trees had been tagged for removal, and a number of residents had been in contact with Twp and JCP&L officials to halt the work until such time as its full impact on the streetscape could be determined. He noted that JCP&L was scheduled to appear at the February 28 Township Committee meeting to address residents' concerns about the storm-related power outages in 2011. The members of the public present at the meeting were invited to offer comments. Wilma Frey of Water Street reported that she had spoken to various members of the work crews and learned that JCP&L's contract arborists (ECI) marked the trees, which are then inspected by JCP&L forester Joshua Green, who then authorizes the JCP&L tree service contractor to begin the removal work. Teddy Murphy of Burrell Road suggested that communications between JCP&L, its contractors, and the Township should be better coordinated well in advance of the actual work. Chairman Wrede suggested that JCP&L might be subject to standards or guidelines that might be enforceable by the Township. Ms. Murphy stated that the SRBC, Forest Advisory Board, and Historic Preservation Commission were all established by the Township to further the Township's stated preservation objectives for its natural and historic resources, and that one or more of those groups should be engaged in coordinating future tree trimming / removal work with JCP&L.

New Business: Chairman Wrede recalled that the 2011 Master Plan Re-Exam included an item concerning the maintenance of the Township's unsurfaced roads, and suggested the SRBC might consider examining costs of maintaining paved roads vs. unsurfaced roads in anticipation of making a recommendation to the governing bodies.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George Cassa

