

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
April 8, 2019**

The Tewksbury Township Environmental Commission met at a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Meeting Hall, 60 Water Street, Mountainville, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chris Teasdale, Chairman, Mary Ace arrived at 7:38 p.m., Mario Colitti arrived at 7:35 p.m., Glenn Likus, Bruce Mackie, Geoffrey Connor and Michael Schlaefer, Alt. #2.

Absent: Matt Grobert and Hope Kaufman, Alt. #1.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Chris Teasdale announced that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by posting a copy thereof on the Municipal Building bulletin board, mailing a copy to the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat, and filing with the municipal clerk, all on January 15, 2019.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public.

Debra Dillon, Vliettown Road, was present regarding stormwater issues and noted that her main focus has been to develop a survey to provide to volunteer groups and she asked if the Commission had any feedback on the draft that was forwarded. Mr. Teasdale opined that the draft appeared to put the Environmental Commission as the sponsor and he didn't believe that was what was discussed. He suggested to Mrs. Dillon that she research things like how to design a good survey, what process should be followed and who will fund it, etc. Mrs. Dillon opined that the survey should target the Oldwick Village residents and it should address the Oldwick Park since it creates the greatest amount of runoff; it is also an area where green infrastructure could be implemented while creating good for the community. She noted that the feedback she received from the Tewksbury Athletic Association was that if the survey addressed the park it should be sent to everyone in Tewksbury Township. The feedback from the Land Use Board was to incorporate more stormwater questions to gauge what the issues are in Oldwick. Mrs. Dillon explained she is going to redraft it as two (2) separate surveys and possibly have it as an online survey. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding good and bad questions, the best way to approach a survey when the ultimate goal is for a grant, etc. When asked by Mr. Mackie if the Township will facilitate the online survey, Mrs. Dillon noted that she had not thought about the mechanics of it yet. Ms. Ace suggested that Mrs. Dillon figure out the goals and objectives of the survey and who she wants the respondents to be. Mr. Teasdale expressed concern that the draft asks questions about recreational issues and doesn't address stormwater. He suggested a question that asks taxpayers if they want

money used for water retention systems. Mr. Teasdale didn't feel there was anything to react to from an Environmental Commission point of view because the draft is about recreation.

Mrs. Dillon briefed the Commission on grant opportunities available and asked if the Commission had an opinion about any of the organizations. Mr. Teasdale suggested that local organizations might be better and he noted that Raritan Headwaters Association owns property in Tewksbury.

Mrs. Dillon asked if the Land Use Board was "re-doing" the Master Plan in 2019. Mr. Mackie recalled that a sub-committee may be formed and a re-examination might occur. When asked by Mrs. Dillon if a resident can look at the Master Plan, Mr. Mackie noted that a copy is at the municipal building. Mrs. Dillon noted that she found the Stormwater Management Plan from 2005 and she hoped that the Commission would pay close attention to the goals and objectives, specifically No. 4. Mr. Teasdale noted that at the last meeting the Commission discussed familiarizing themselves with the plan. Mrs. Dillon found it to be a good plan and she hoped that the Commission would review it promptly.

In conclusion, Mrs. Dillon stated that in February she met with the County Engineer regarding Oldwick stormwater and the County will not make any changes to the County stormwater infrastructure. Mr. Teasdale mentioned that he drove down Vlietown Road and he witnessed water sheet flowing down the hill from the Platt property and noted that there is no berm or hedgerow to help hold back the water. Mr. Likus opined that a berm would only redirect the water and he opined that a detention basin might accomplish the goal. However, creating a detention basin is not an easy due to NJDEP permitting requirements and the cost of construction. Mr. Likus opined that the field in question has been draining that way since Vlietown Road was constructed. Mrs. Dillon opined that the bigger issue is if the driveway gets paved. Mr. Likus opined that the pavement is not going to be much different than the existing compacted gravel driveway that has been in existence for decades. When asked by Mr. Colitti when her house was built, Mrs. Dillon responded 2002.

Mrs. Dillon indicated that she would look at the survey and grants and make sure stormwater is "front and center".

There being no one else in the public, Mr. Teasdale closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

MINUTES

➤ March 11, 2019

The minutes of March 11, 2019 were approved with a correction to page (2) by motion of Mr. Connor and seconded by Mr. Mackie. All were in favor. Mr. Likus abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Ace made a motion acknowledging receipt of the following items of correspondence. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- a) A letter dated March 15, 2019 from Engineering and Land Planning re: Highlands Applicability Determination Application, 62 Philhower Road, Block 31, Lot 12.01.
- b) A letter dated March 14, 2019 from NJDEP re: Clarification of facility address – Reissuance of Draft Surface Water Major Mod Permit Action, NJPDES Permit No. NJ0102563, Route 78 Office Area WWTF (*e-mailed March 25, 2019*).
- c) A letter dated March 27, 2019 from Flint Hill Preserve re: Project: Habitat Improvement and Management of approximately 10,500 feet of Lamington River (Tewksbury/Bedminster Twp.).
- d) A letter dated April 4, 2019 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 19-02, Block 6.04, Lot 37.04.

Addressing item b) above, Mr. Teasdale noted that the Commissions comment letter was sent to the NJDEP and a copy to Readington Township. He noted that Readington Township Environmental Commission was going to respond.

Addressing item c), Mr. Connor explained that the group is going to do some work along the Lamington River to make improvements for trout fishing by reintroducing some rocks, etc.; all of the landowners along the river have consented. The packet for the NJDEP permit was provided to Tewksbury for informational purposes and no action is necessary.

Addressing item d), Mr. Likus noted that the applicant needs a height variance for a retaining wall in the front of the house and a side yard setback for a patio and staircase. He noted that the lot is irregularly shaped and the house cannot be seen from Frog Hollow Road. Mr. Likus explained that the retaining wall is necessary due to the proposed grading. Mr. Mackie noted that they are decreasing the lot coverage and Mr. Likus noted that even though they don't require an impervious coverage variance they are adding drywells. The consensus of the Commission was that it was a positive that coverage was being reduced and that the applicant is proposing drywells.

Addressing item a), it was noted that the property owner is proposing ground mounted solar panels and is applying to the NJDEP for a Highlands exemption.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Updates – Land Use Board

Because of no meeting, Mr. Mackie had no new updates. He did note that the NJDEP has provided the Township notice of the NJPDES permit modification for Bellemead but has not yet responded about a public hearing or extension of the public comment period.

- Annual Stream Cleanup – April 13, 2019

Mr. Colitti reminded the Commission that the cleanup will occur Saturday at the Park and Ride near Route 78 from 9 to 12. Mr. Teasdale noted that the DPW is providing a truck and trailer for the garbage collected.

Margo Likus suggested installing fake security cameras that look like real cameras with a sign that reads “you are being monitored, \$500 fine” to deter people from littering. Mr. Teasdale liked the idea and thought the Township could install real cameras and implement fines.

- NJPDES Permit No. NJ0102563, Route 78 Office area WWTF (Bellemead)

Discussed above.

- Stormwater Management Review

Mr. Teasdale asked the Commission to review the Stormwater Management Report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator