

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
February 10, 2020**

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 7:45 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chris Teasdale, Chairman, Mario Colitti, Mary Ace, Bruce Mackie, Geoffrey Connor, Tim Dempsey and Hope Kaufman, Alt. #1

Absent: Glenn Likus and Michael Schlaefer, Alt. #2

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, 2020.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public. There being no public participation, he closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

MINUTES

- January 13, 2020

The minutes of January 13, 2020 were approved by motion of Mr. Colitti and seconded by Mr. Connor. All were in favor. Mr. Teasdale and Mrs. Kaufman abstained.

CLAIM

The claim for the ANJEC membership dues was incorrectly listed in January for \$400. The Commission authorized the correct amount as noted below.

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to approve the claim for \$425 to pay the 2020 ANJEC membership dues. Mrs. Kaufman seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

- 2020 ANJEC Membership Dues - \$425 (*this includes \$375 for 7 members plus \$50 for 2 additional members. Workshops, webinars and courses are FREE.*)

Roll Call Vote:

Those in Favor: Mr. Mackie, Mr. Colitti, Mr. Connor, Ms. Ace, Mr. Dempsey, Mrs. Kaufman and Mr. Teasdale

Those Opposed: None

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Teasdale made a motion acknowledging receipt of the following items of correspondence. Mr. Mackie seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- a) A letter dated January 21, 2020 from ANJEC re: reducing single-use bags, polystyrene foam food products and straws (plastic pollution bill).

The Commission discussed item a) above and agreed that it might be worthwhile to talk to the stores in Tewksbury (Tewksbury Inn, Oldwick General Store, Tewksbury Fine Wine, Pottersville Deli, Magic Shop, Melick's, etc.) to determine what products they use (Styrofoam, plastic vs. paper bags, etc.). Mrs. Kaufman questioned why businesses were not required to recycle. Mr. Colitti noted that it was his understanding that the State made it voluntary rather than mandatory. Mrs. Kaufman suggested that the Green Team work on it at a local level.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie reported that the Land Use Board scheduled a site walk for the Wetteland application on March 14, 2020 at 10 a.m. with the continuation of the hearing on March 18, 2020.

Mr. Mackie noted that he volunteered to sit on a sub-committee of the Land Use Board charged with drafting a property maintenance ordinance.

- Stormwater Management Review

When asked by Mr. Mackie if stormwater will be discussed by the Green Team, Mr. Teasdale opined that it could be discussed.

When asked by Mr. Teasdale if the new improvements to the Tewksbury Inn parking area contained stormwater measures, Mr. Mackie responded in the positive.

- Signage/cameras at the Route 78 Park and Ride and review of litter ordinances

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming cleanup scheduled for April 18, 2020 from 9 a.m. to noon. Mrs. Kaufman noted that Spring break was also scheduled at that time and Mr. Colitti attributed the low response rate to those being away. Mr. Teasdale offered to weed whack the area to make it more accessible; Mrs. Kaufman and Mr. Dempsey agreed to help.

➤ Spotted Lanternfly

Mrs. Kaufman noted that the Parks Committee will be hosting two (2) programs for Arbor Day, Spotted Lanternfly on April 23, 2020 at the Old Turnpike School and the Owls of Hunterdon on April 24, 2020 at the Tewksbury Elementary School.

➤ Annual Stream Cleanup (*M. Colitti*)

Mr. Colitti indicated that he would get updates to the Times of Tewksbury for the Annual Stream Cleanup.

➤ Wetlands Bank Update (*H. Kaufman*)

Nothing new to report.

➤ Green Team

Mr. Teasdale explained that the Township Engineer's office provided a presentation to the Township Committee about the value of having a Green Team which is a Sustainable New Jersey effort. If the Township meets certain certifications and eligibility requirements funding could be available for projects such as electric charging stations, help with emerald ash borers, etc. Mr. Teasdale noted that Mrs. Dillon was a big advocate and it was suggested that she participate. Dr. Voyce established a tentative Green Team and requested two (2) Environmental Commission members to join the Dept. of Public Works, two (2) Land Use Board members, the Township Engineer and Mrs. Dillon. Mrs. Kaufman and Mr. Dempsey volunteered to represent the Environmental Commission. Ms. Ace suggested focusing on an end goal such as water protection and stormwater management. Mrs. Kaufman noted that there are a series of steps that a municipality must take to qualify for the grant funds. Discussion ensued regarding public awareness about sustainability and grant funding. Ms. Ace opined that the stormwater issue should be the priority, particularly in Oldwick. Mr. Teasdale asked Mr. Dempsey and Mrs. Kaufman to encourage the Green Team to keep expanding the membership to bring in teachers, businesses leaders, etc. Mr. Teasdale offered to serve as an alternate on the Green Team in the event that the regular members cannot attend. It was announced that the first meeting of the Green Team was scheduled for February 18, 2020 at 8 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Kaufman made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Dempsey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator