

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING
June 8, 2020**

The Tewksbury Township Environmental Commission met in a virtual Zoom meeting on the above date. The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chris Teasdale, Chairman, Mary Ace, Bruce Mackie and Geoffrey Connor.

Absent: Mario Colitti, Glenn Likus, Tim Dempsey, Hope Kaufman, Alt. #1 and Michael Schlaefer, Alt. #2

Also present were Shana Goodchild, Land Use Administrator and Mara Tippet, Raritan Headwaters Association.

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.

MINUTES

- May 11, 2020

The minutes of May 11, 2020 were approved by motion of Mr. Connor and seconded by Ms. Ace. All were in favor.

When asked by Mr. Mackie if he had a chance to discuss an update of the ERI with Debbie Kratzer, Mr. Teasdale noted that the cost would depend on what needed to be updated. A discussion ensued regarding using Highlands Funds available through the grant process and putting together a scope of work. When asked if she had any sense of what tasks in the Highlands conformance process that the Township would like to complete, Ms. Goodchild noted that the focus has been on updating the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan. She explained that the Highlands Council staff has been very cooperative in moving funding around so a formal request could be made to move funds from one task to another. Mr. Teasdale recommended tabling the discussion until Hope Kaufman and Tim Dempsey could participate in the discussion to get clear direction on how to move ahead to satisfy the needs of the Green Team.

COMMUNITY WELL TESTING PROGRAM

Mara Tippet, Raritan Headwater Assoc. was present to discuss last years results and displayed the well test data and well test report card – approximately 100 tests were done last year. The results were pretty typical - an 11% failure rate, 9% was total coliform and 2% was E. coli

bacteria. She noted that residents who live in a home built prior to 1987 should test for Lead and Arsenic should be tested for every five (5) years and similarly with Radon and Gross Alpha.

Discussion ensued regarding the future of the program during the Coronavirus Pandemic. She noted that Raritan Headwaters will be offering the mobile watershed unit to municipalities – a van could be parked outside of the municipal offices to offer a safe event. She suggested waiting to make any decisions about the fall programming until August or September. Discussion ensued regarding methods to use to get the word out such as the Twp. webpage, Nixle Alert, etc. The consensus of the Commission was to wait for outreach about the event until a more information is known regarding the handling of the event.

The Commission thanked Ms. Tippet for attending.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) Public Notice dated June 1, 2020 from PSE&G re: application for a flood hazard area individual permit extension in support of PSE&G electric overhead transmission system rights of way vegetation maintenance to permit the continued use of selective herbicide application within riparian zones.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Updates – Land Use Board

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Land Use Board application from Mr. Wetteland. Mr. Mackie spoke about the site walk in March and the applicant's recent amendment to the application withdrawing the steep slope variance; the applicant only requires approval for a lot that does not abut a public street. The Commission discussed the tree removal and the tree ordinance and Ms. Goodchild explained that several years ago the Township Committee amended the tree ordinance. She noted that the amended ordinance exempts so much activity that the Zoning Officer has not had to issue a permit since the amendment. The following were some examples of tree remove that are exempt from the permit process: a homeowner can cut five (5) trees per acre, per year for firewood, trees around the home, accessory structures and septic system, etc. Ms. Goodchild noted that she has asked the Zoning Officer to prepare a memo to send to the Township Committee using recent properties as examples to demonstrate what the ordinance now permits.

All remaining discussion items were tabled.

- Stormwater Management Review
- Signage/cameras at the Route 78 Park and Ride and review of litter ordinances
- Spotted Lanternfly
- Annual Stream Cleanup (*M. Colitti*)
- Wetlands Bank Update (*H. Kaufman*)
- Sustainable Jersey – Green Team Update

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Ms. Ace seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator