

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
March 11, 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 7:35 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chris Teasdale, Chairman, Mary Ace, Mario Colitti, Bruce Mackie, Geoffrey Connor and Hope Kaufman, Alt. #1 and Michael Schlaefer, Alt. #2.

Absent: Glenn Likus and Matt Grobert.

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

MINUTES

- February 11, 2019

The minutes of February 11, 2019 were approved by motion of Ms. Ace and seconded by Mr. Mackie. All were in favor. Mr. Schlaefer abstained.

Mr. Teasdale noted that he communicated with Peter Melick about getting Troop 100 involved with the Annual Stream Clean-up day and Mr. Melick agreed to make the Troop aware of the event.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated February 22, 2019 from ANJEC thanking the Commission for its 2019 membership and membership benefits.

Mr. Teasdale noted receipt of an e-mail from George Cassa regarding a public notice that appeared in the Hunterdon County Democrat on February 28, 2019 with regard to the NJDEP issuing a draft renewal for the Bellemead NJPDES permit. Ms. Ace noted that the NJDEP has consistently made mistakes in the notice by listing the location as

Whitehouse Station and/or Readington Township. She recommended that the effort be focused on petitioning the NJDEP to hold a public hearing. Because of the error regarding the location, Ms. Ace didn't believe that the Tewksbury Township Mayor and Committee were noticed properly. Ms. Ace reminded Commission members that the properties in question are south of Route 78 on the East and West side of Route 523; the West side being the most environmentally constrained. She noted that there have been many changes in the approval and zoning for the property and that the NJDEP should take those changes into consideration. Mr. Connor agreed that the Commission should be consulted and permitted to comment about discharge into the stream. Ms. Ace recalled that the last public hearing was in 2011. Mr. Mackie noted that the original permit, 20 plus years ago, was for office space and subsequently a housing project. Mr. Connor opined that the Commission should recommend to NJDEP that they not grant the permit unless they know what project Bellemead is proposing/building. Mr. Schlaefer opined that they can probably build according to the volume of discharge that has been approved. Mr. Teasdale offered to draft a letter to NJDEP pointing out that notice was deficient, a new notice should be issued and that the NJDEP should hold a local public hearing.

A discussion ensued regarding the Category 1 stream designations in Tewksbury. Ms. Ace noted that Rockaway Creek is a Category 1 stream until it gets to the Readington Township side. When asked by Mr. Connor how Readington Township feels about the NJPDES permit, Ms. Ace opined that they are very environmentally aware.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie reported that two (2) applicants appeared before the LUB last Wednesday. The first applicant applied for a pool, patio and shed. The project was discussed at length and ultimately, the applicant agreed to engineer additional impervious coverage mitigation by installing additional drywells to capture more of the existing house and driveway. The second application was for improvements to an existing house that was in disrepair and all of the structures were pre-existing, non-conforming. He noted that the applicant was asked to consider a drywell and/or the use of pervious pavers for the driveway (40% void space). Mr. Mackie opined that it will be a great improvement to the property.

➤ Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts (*NJDEP permits are being applied for by Black Lagoon*)

Mr. Teasdale noted that the ponds will be treated again this season.

➤ Annual Stream Cleanup – April 13, 2019

Mr. Colitti noted that the Township DPW cannot pick up paint cans, hazardous waste and bulk wood materials. They will leave an empty truck for the volunteers to load. Ms. Kaufman asked if Ms. Goodchild could reach out to the County to pick up the hazardous waste, etc. She also offered for the volunteers to use the shovels and rakes purchased by

the Parks Committee. Ms. Teasdale opined that rakes would not work for the debris at the site. Mrs. Kaufman disturbed the flyer for the stream clean up to the head of personnel at AM Best. Mr. Colitti offered to send another blurb to the Times of Tewksbury to remind everyone of the event.

STORMWATER REGULATIONS

Mr. Teasdale distributed literature from ANJEC regarding the new changes to stormwater regulations and he noted that the last page dealt with the stormwater utilities funding mechanism and the remainder of the article was about the new general stormwater permits. Mr. Teasdale suggested that the Commission read through the information and do some research prior to the April meeting.

MICELLANEOUS

Mr. Teasdale discussed the recent ANJEC report which contained an article about how NJ was on the front line for establishing Environmental Commission's; Tewksbury was listed as one of the first townships to have a Commission in 1969.

Ms. Ace noted that she was in the second floor of the library and could see water running in the culvert and sheet flowing over the land. She also mentioned that on March 28th and 29th Rutgers is having a two (2) day conference on micro-plastics. Discussion ensued regarding plastic bags and re-usable bags.

Mrs. Kaufman and Mr. Connor reported on the ANJEC Environmental Commission seminar that they attended. They noted that the Commission is required to: 1) issue an annual report to the governing body, 2) maintain an index of open areas and 3) have an Environmental Resource Inventory.

Mrs. Kaufman noted that she was approached by parent of a Voorhees Environmental student about the possibility of an adjunct high school member sit on the Commission. Mr. Teasdale suggested that the student attend a few meetings to gauge interest.

The Commission discussed updating the ERI, noting that the bulk of the work is done and the mapping won't really change. Mr. Teasdale offered to look into getting some quotes for updates.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator