

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING
May 11, 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, Mario Colitti (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public.

Debra Dillon was present and noted that she would be scheduling the next Green Team meeting with a date to be determined; Dr. Obropta will provide his findings. Mrs. Dillon offered to share a link with the Commission for the Green Infrastructure Champion Series material. She also noted that the 2019 Oldwick survey results were released. She opined that as it relates to the Environmental Commission two (2) topics would be of interest – stormwater and litter.

There being no other public participation, he closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

MINUTES

- February 10, 2020

The minutes of February 10, 2020 were approved by motion of Mrs. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Connor. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Sustainable Jersey Actions:
 1. Environmental Resource Inventory - Resolution No. 2020-02 stating the existing ERI is still in good standing/valid.
 2. Environmental Commission Annual Accomplishment Report

3. 2019 list of Land Use applications reviewed by the Environmental Commission

Mr. Dempsey noted that prior to the COVID19 pandemic there was a kick-off meeting of the Green Team. He met with Angela Knowles from Van Cleef Engineering to go through the actions necessary for certification. Mr. Dempsey offered to share the actions website with the Commission and asked members to identify any particular action they felt were important. It was noted that Mrs. Kaufman would put together the Annual Accomplishment Report and the list of 2019 Land Use Board applications was prepared. Mrs. Kaufman agreed with Mr. Dempsey's outline and noted that they made the recommendation that different sectors be brought in (religious leaders, school leaders, etc.). Discussion ensued regarding the existing Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) and Mrs. Kaufman opined that some areas required additional scoping or supplemental information be provided and she expressed concern with moving forward with the ERI as it stands. Mr. Teasdale shared his overview of the existing ERI and the members present discussed the updates needed. Mrs. Kaufman noted that the three (3) areas she was interested in included renewable energy, Community Forestry Plan and climate change. Mrs. Kaufman suggested having the Township Planner look at what the Community Forestry Plan looks like as part of the ERI. Mr. Teasdale proposed that a sub-group of the Commission have a Zoom meeting to define the three (3) sections outlined by Mrs. Kaufman and possibly do a supplement of those items and request a quote. Mrs. Dillon offered to provide the link to a session about climate resiliency. Ms. Ace opined that there should be a focus on ground and surface water, an update on the Regional Highlands Master Plan and an update on the Bellemead NJPDES permit renewal. Ms. Ace also questioned whether the severity of the storms has changed the floodplain mapping. Mrs. Kaufman noted that all of the floodplain mapping was updated after Hurricane Sandy. Discussion ensued about updating the entire ERI, budgetary constraints and possible funding sources. Mr. Teasdale offered to send an informal request to Debi Kratzer (consultant that prepared the existing ERI) to update the document. Mr. Teasdale, Mr. Dempsey, Mrs. Kaufman and Ms. Ace offered to look at the information that might be necessary in a supplemental report for the ERI and table the resolution for the existing ERI.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) Public Notice dated February 19, 2020 re: Reddington Property Proposed In-ground pool, 88 Rockaway Road, Block 38, Lot 17.01.
- b) Highlands Applicability Determination Application dated February 4, 2020 re: Foxhill Preserve Trail System/Trail Plan Improvements, Lance Tract/Whitman-Sullivan Tract, Block 28, Lot 27 and Block 29, Lots 8.021 and 10.04.

Mr. Teasdale noted that item b) above involved the Tewksbury Land Trust and the Township working together on a trail system to further the "10 Mile Trail" project, which starts at the base of Palatine Road and runs through the property referenced and ultimately to Route 517. The Tewksbury Land Trust asked the Township Committee to partner with them to gain approval for

the trail system; the Township has endorsed the application. When asked by Mrs. Kaufman if the Tewksbury Land Trust will be responsible for creating and maintaining the trail, Mr. Teasdale responded in the positive.

The Commission discussed item a) above but no action was taken.

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie reported that the Wetteland application was postponed and the applicant's attorney has informed the Board that the applicant is moving the house to eliminate the need for a critical slope variance. He also noted that the Board conducted its first virtual public hearing for a variance to install a generator and associated fuel tanks.

- Stormwater Management Review

Nothing new to report other than it will be part of the ERI update request.

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

Nothing new to report.

- Spotted Lanternfly

Mrs. Kaufman noted that she has had no sightings during hikes. Mrs. Kaufman and Mr. Colitti noted that they have witnessed more damage from the Emerald Ash borer.

- Annual Stream Cleanup (*M. Colitti*)

Mr. Colitti noted that there has been some discussion about holding the stream cleanup in the fall.

- Wetlands Bank Update (*H. Kaufman*)

Mrs. Kaufman noted that she was working on wetland mapping and will have something to report in the near future.

- Community Well Water Testing

Discussion ensued regarding hosting the program in October and the ability to conduct the testing while still maintaining proper social distancing, staggering drop offs, etc. Mr. Mackie opined that the pavilion at Christie Hoffman Farm Park may be an option for drop offs. Mrs. Kaufman questioned whether the Commission would want to do the program sooner since people are home and available. She also noted that the RHA website offers online well test kits. Mr. Mackie offered to reach out to RHA about constraints and invite Mara Tippet to participate at the June 8, 2020 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Kaufman made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Mr. Dempsey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator