

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 15, 2018**

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 7:30 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chris Teasdale, Chairman, Mario Colitti arrived at 7:35 p.m., Bruce Mackie, Glenn Likus, Mary Ace arrived at 7:31 p.m., Geoffrey Connor and Hope Kaufman, Alt. #1

Absent: Matt Grobert 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 25, 2018.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mara Tippet, Raritan Headwaters – Update on Community Well Testing Program

Mr. Teasdale noted that Ms. Tippet had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances.

Mr. Teasdale confirmed that Mr. Mackie would be available for both return days of the well testing, Mr. Connor agreed to help Thursday and Mr. Grobert agreed to help Friday.

Mr. Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public.

Debra Dillon was present to provide an update on the ongoing stormwater issue. She last met with the DPW, Deputy Mayor Voyce and Charlie Chapin (adjoining property owner) in June and noted that another meeting is scheduled in two (2) weeks at which time the NJ Conservation Foundation will participate. She opined that the Township still needs to study what is happening upstream and expressed frustration that another season has passed with no resolution. Mr. Teasdale noted the extreme weather events and asked if the flooding has been the same or worse to which Mrs. Dillon replied the same. She noted that she is going to continue her communication efforts with various people to try to get them to look at things such as the driveway to the Township irrigation fields. She explained that the previous Township administration required the driveway to be paved without any consideration for stormwater. Mr. Teasdale noted that Ms. Goodchild

provided the Commission with the Grading and Surface Water Management Ordinance and he read into the record the exemptions which include any property owned by the Township or the Board of Education. Mrs. Dillon questioned whether the Township Engineer inspects projects at completion. Mr. Likus noted that he has been on both sides and the Township Engineer is pretty clear with the inspection requirements; many details go into the plan and review process.

Mrs. Dillon spoke of the trees that were cut down along Vliettown Road and she hoped that trees could be replanted. Mrs. Kaufman referenced a tree fund established by the quarry for the purchase of trees. When asked by Mr. Teasdale if the DPW could plant the trees, Mrs. Kaufman explained that in the past the DPW has helped plant trees in the parks. She noted that the trees would have to be protected from deer and also watered. When asked how the money can be used, Mrs. Kaufman explained that the former Administrator indicated that the fund was for the purchase of trees only. Mrs. Dillon opined that a citizens group could maintain the trees after they are planted.

Mrs. Dillon offered to help gather any information necessary to create storm drain mapping so she can understand what the DPW uses when considering improvements and priority areas. She attended the NJ conference about stormwater utilities and suggested that the Township take advantage of the funding available. Mrs. Kaufman offered to email Mrs. Dillon the blueprint for financing green stormwater infrastructure.

A discussion ensued regarding the ability to better channel the water to relieve some of the flooding. Mrs. Dillon noted that the water backs up at the bridge so it will relieve flooding below the bridge; measures need to be taken upstream to control the erosion and sediment. The amount of water that enters her property is greater than can go under the bridge. Mr. Mackie noted that the engineer did not come to that conclusion and it was stated that the bridge and culvert are large enough to handle the water. Mrs. Dillon pointed out that it is large enough for normal conditions but with storms, sediment, invasive species and velocity it can't handle the water. He opined that there was an agreement that the size of the culvert, if it was unrestricted, was large enough to handle the current flow.

Mrs. Dillon offered to report back in two (2) weeks after the next meeting with the NJ Conservation Foundation and Township Officials. Mr. Teasdale noted that if any government agency, i.e. the Environmental Commission, could promote the need for the replanting of trees along Vliettown Road the Commission would be happy to support that effort if the neighborhood could help maintain them and the DPW could handle planting. Mrs. Dillon asked if the Commission would support the creation of bioswales at the Oldwick fields. Mr. Teasdale opined that bioswales would be a tougher battle to take on. Mrs. Dillon asked what governmental agency would need to approve an application for green infrastructure grants. Mr. Teasdale explained that the Environmental Commission has the authority to pursue those types of grants but often times the Township Committee is required to sign a letter agreeing to the match. He offered to keep that type of grant on the Commission's radar and reach out to get her involved.

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

MINUTES

- July 9, 2018 (*tabled from September*)

The minutes of July 9, 2018 were approved by motion of Mrs. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Likus. All were in favor. Ms. Ace, Mr. Connor and Mr. Colitti abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated September 21, 2018 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 18-10, Setback Variance, Block 3, Lot 2.
- b) A letter dated August 31, 2018 from NJDEP to Jason Waksman, Bellemead Development Corp. re: Ground Water Remedial Action Permit for Block 47, Lot 48.

The Commission discussed item b) above no action was necessary.

The Commission discussed item a) above for a setback variance to remove a dilapidated barn/garage and rebuild it in a slightly more conforming location (still requiring a side setback variance). Mr. Colitti opined that it was an historic structure, Mr. Likus pointed out that the application suggests it is from the 1700's. After a brief discussion, the Commission had no objections to the application.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie noted that the next meeting will be to hear the Marrazza Realty, LLC application. When asked what the application is for, Mr. Mackie explained that the owner of the Tewksbury Inn bought two (2) adjoining properties and he is reconfiguring the lots, adding additional parking and has asked to remove the existing barn/shed and replace it with a new building for an affordable housing unit and storage. Mr. Teasdale disagreed that the applicant can't save the existing large tree in the rear. Mr. Likus noted that parking is being added to the other side of the tree which will impact the drip line.

- Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts

There was nothing new to report.

- Community Well Testing – *confirmation of volunteers for return mornings (10/18 & 10/19)*

Discussed above.

➤ Stormwater Memorandum For Record

Discussed above.

Mr. Colitti noted that Raritan Headwaters is looking for a part time stream cleanup program coordinator.

➤ Miscellaneous Commission Discussion

Mr. Connor noted that there is a fire hydrant in front of his house at the corner of Homestead and Hollow Brook Roads. He explained that it ran for 12 hours a day for 3 days and when he asked American Water why it was running their response was that someone had chlorine poisoning and they needed to flush it out. Mr. Likus noted that the same line runs all the way to Far Hills Borough and they flushed all of Peapack and Gladstone and Far Hills.

Mr. Connor asked if there is mapping of the 300 foot buffer along the Rockaway Creek to which Mr. Teasdale responded in the positive and offered to bring a copy of the Environmental Resource Inventory to the November meeting.

Mr. Colitti questioned the dredging in the Rockaway Creek at Halls Mill Road. Mr. Teasdale explained that they are widening the County road and the dredging was for the footings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Colitti made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Mr. Mackie seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator