

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
June 13, 2011**

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 7:36 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chairman Chris Teasdale, Bruce Mackie, Joe Weber, Tom Schroth, Matt Grobert, Robert Hoffman arrived at 7:42 p.m., Mario Colitti arrived at 7:46 p.m., Glenn Likus arrived at 7:48 p.m. and Mary Ace arrived at 8:30 p.m.

Absent: None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

It was 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 11, 2011.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public. There being no one in the audience, Mr. Teasdale closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of April 11, 2011 were approved by motion of Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Schroth. All were in favor. Mr. Mackie abstained.

The minutes of May 9, 2011 were approved by motion of Mr. Mackie and seconded by Mr. Weber with a minor correction on page three (3). All were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) Notice dated May 23, 2011 from James L. Johnson regarding an application for general permit authorization for Block 23, Lots 23, 28.03 & 29.
- b) A letter dated May 20, 2011 from NJ American Water the denial of our grant application for eradication of water chestnuts from the Pascale Park pond.
- c) A letter dated May 20, 2011 from Anthony Sblendorio, CEO of Ecological outlining their services.
- d) A letter dated June 9, 2011 from Shana Goodchild re: Kian, Appl. No. 11-05, Block 34, Lot 19.04.

As it relates to item a) Mr. Teasdale noted that he heard that there is a plan to cut a road in from County Route 517 (across from the Somerset Hills Handicapped Riders) into the Johnson property. No action required at this time.

As it relates to item b) Mr. Colitti noted that he would organize cub scouts and little league children to volunteer their time. Mr. Teasdale suggested picking a date in July to rally people together. Mr. Schroth suggested asking the Township if they would consider providing support for a machine like was used last year. Mr. Teasdale agreed to send an e-mail out in July to solicit volunteers. When asked how they were removed from the pond in 2010, Mr. Teasdale explained that Melissa Almendinger from the Invasive Species Task Force provided \$15,000 worth of funding from the task force to pay Princeton Hydro to bring in their water machine to remove the water chestnuts. Wayne Lisa then loaded them into his truck and transported them to the URWA property.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Update on E.C. Liaisons to other Boards/Committees (eg. Forest Advisory Board, Pascale Advisory Committee and Land Use Board)

Forest Advisory Board – Mr. Schroth had nothing new to report since the Arbor Day activities.

Pascale Advisory Committee – Mr. Teasdale noted that the group has a Chairman, Dan Todd, who lived in the west and was involved in land management where there are battles between farmers and ranchers and water rights are extremely convoluted. He noted that the group consists of a member of the school board, environmental commission, land use board and another woman connected to the school. He added that the school is very interested in using Pascale for educational purposes. The group needs to focus on involving the school as well as stewardship of the land. A letter has been written to the Township Committee requesting guidance.

Land Use Board – Mr. Mackie noted that the most recent hearing was held at the Old Turnpike School where the Board listened to testimony from one of the Johnson experts on helistop application. A site walk is scheduled for the last week in June and is open to the public as well as Township Boards, Committees and Commissions. Mr. Teasdale suggested members check the website or check with Ms. Goodchild for the exact date and time. Mr. Teasdale pointed out that the Johnson expert didn't submit a report as requested by the Land Use Board. Mr. Mackie concurred and explained that the Board will use the transcript from the meeting and ask questions at the next hearing. Mr. Mackie opined that the application will take several more months to accommodate testimony and by both the applicant and the public.

Mr. Mackie spoke of the recent approval of the Hill and Dale subdivisions which will result in land being dedicated to open space. He mentioned the concern raised regarding swimming and fishing in the Rockaway Creek. Mr. Grobert explained that there is a public access area along the Rockaway but when the State erects signs the residents remove them because they don't want people to be aware of the public access.

Mr. Mackie reported on the Wood application. A discussion ensued as to whether the Board received the Commission's memo. Mr. Teasdale recalled Mr. Bernstein having an issue with the content of the letter. Mr. Mackie reviewed his folder and confirmed that the Board received the letter.

- Continued discussion regarding the Washington Township Viewshed Protection Ordinance

Nothing new to report.

- Continued discussion regarding possible Noise Ordinance

Mr. Teasdale noted that the Commission received all the background information that Mr. Weber found on noise ordinances. Mr. Weber's recommendation was that the Commission forward the items to the Land Use Board with a request that they look into the matter. Mr. Weber prepared a draft cover letter to forward with the material. He opined that an ordinance would give the Land Use Board something to base a condition on if an applicant proposed something that should have noise limitations. Mr. Likus asked Mr. Hoffman if he felt there would be complications with a noise ordinance for the farming community. Mr. Hoffman opined that the right to farm would protect farming activity. He noted that the Township's hesitation with a noise ordinance has always been the enforcement issue. Mr. Weber opined that there was no downside to the Township adopting a noise ordinance. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was to authorize a letter and supporting material to be sent to the Land Use Board with the recommendation that they ask the Planner to review and comment on the material.

- Reports from Mary Ace/Chris Teasdale on the ANJEC Resource Papers

Mr. Teasdale reviewed the paper on Municipal Environmental Commissions of NJ and the statutes that govern the Commission. He outlined the membership and function of the Commission as prescribed by the statute.

Ms. Ace reviewed the paper on site plan and subdivision review and she opined that the Commission's review technique is pretty savvy. She did note that the paper mentions a checklist that might be useful. Mr. Teasdale asked Ms. Goodchild to scan the checklist and provide it to the Board for the next meeting.

- Application Review - Kian, Appl. No. 11-05, Block 34, Lot 19.04

The Commission reviewed the application material for the proposed five (5) car motorstable. Mr. Teasdale noted that they need variances for lot coverage and the number of cars; noting that the applicant already has six (6) cars on the property. After a lengthy discussion, some of the Commission members found the proposed coverage to be trivial and others thought that the coverage was already excessive. When a vote was solicited a majority of the Commission opined that the lot was overdeveloped and additional coverage should not be added. Mr. Teasdale agreed to draft a letter to the

Land Use Board expressing those divided feelings.

➤ Furlong – 10-14

Mr. Likus agreed to take the application file and review it prior to the July meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Weber made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Schroth seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator