

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
May 9, 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 7:30 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chairman Chris Teasdale, Bruce Mackie, Joe Weber, Mario Colitti, Mary Ace and Glenn Likus arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Absent: Robert Hoffman, Tom Schroth and Matt Grobert.

**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**

➤ March 14, 2011

The minutes of March 14, 2011 were approved by motion of Ms. Ace and seconded by Mr. Weber with minor corrections to page three (3). All were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- a) Notice dated May 3, 2011 from PSE&G re: application to the NJDEP for a Highlands Applicability Determination.
- b) A letter dated April 27, 2011 from the SBWA thanking the Commission for the membership donation.
- c) A letter dated April 8, 2011 from ANJEC with copies of two Resource Papers (Municipal Environmental Commissions in New Jersey and Site Plan and Subdivision Review: Environmental Analysis).
- d) A letter dated April 26, 2011 from Shana Goodchild re: Sheft, Appl. No. 11-04, Block 33, Lot 7.18.
- e) A letter dated April 26, 2011 from Shana Goodchild re: Furlong, Appl. No. 10-14, Block 23, L29/29.01.
- f) A letter dated May 2, 2011 from Shana Goodchild re: Blauvelt, Appl. No. 11-03, Block 39, Lot 8.

- g) A letter dated May 6, 2011 from Shana Goodchild re: Fernandes, Appl. No. 11-06, Block 32, Lot 23.

Ms. Ace agreed to read and report on the information in item c regarding Site Plan and Subdivision Review: Environmental Analysis. Mr. Teasdale agreed to read and report on Municipal Environmental Commissions in NJ.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

Mr. Teasdale read the following e-mail from Mr. Schroth into the record:

*EC Members,*

*I won't be at the May 9 meeting due to house guest entertaining obligations.*

*Regarding the Forestry Advisory Board:*

- . The FAB organized and directed annual Township Arbor Day activities on April 29 at the TES and Pascale Park.*
- . Two speakers from Sarah Lawrence College joined us to educate the third graders, and teachers, regarding outdoor learning opportunities.*
- . Tewksbury is a state-designated Tree City for the fifth consecutive year.*
- . The FAB assisted with the planting of a ceremonial apple tree, donated by George Melick, beside the existing apple orchard on TES property.*
- . We also took a park tour, with representation from the EC, Forestry Advisory Board, Parks Committee and Pascale Park Advisory Committee.*
- . A State Forester accompanied us on the tour. With the prior assistance of the forester and past EC member Wilma Frey, I had identified and labeled a number of trees in the park in advance of the tour to assist the tour participants in tree recognition.*

*See you all next month if not sooner,*

*Best Regards,  
Tom Schroth*

Mr. Teasdale noted that the Pascale Advisory Board has now been formed and will meet soon.

Mr. Mackie reported on the first hearing of the Wood application (tennis court). A site walk of the property was conducted last week and the next hearing is scheduled for June 15, 2011. Mr. Mackie also noted that the Board has been discussing ordinances to regulate solar energy. He explained that there is a resident of Tewksbury that owns a solar company and he has volunteered to guide the Land Use Board through the ordinance drafting process. When asked what the concerns are, Mr. Mackie explained

that the concerns lie with the solar farm use not individual residential use.

Mr. Teasdale noted that he attended an alternative energy seminar at the Land Trust Rally and noted that southern NJ is getting hit hard with large solar arrays; the farmers are selling to solar companies rather than developers. He noted that the speakers encouraged townships to have an ordinance to control these types of projects.

Mr. Mackie reported on the Hill and Dale Farm subdivisions noting that the subdivisions were for the purposes of selling the land to the NJ Conservation Foundation/NJ Water Supply Authority. All of the land will be preserved except for the equine area on the north side of Hill and Dale Road; the plan is to subdivide that portion and sell it to a private buyer to defer the cost of the preservation.

- Continued discussion regarding the Washington Township Viewshed Protection Ordinance

Mr. Teasdale had no new information to report.

- Continued discussion regarding possible Noise Ordinance

Mr. Teasdale noted that Mr. Weber sent an e-mail which included the NJ DEP Local Noise Enforcement Options and Model Noise Ordinance and the South Plainfield and Jefferson Township Noise Ordinances. He thought that everyone received it so he did not forward the e-mail. Mr. Teasdale apologized and offered to forward it to the rest of the Commission for discussion in June.

Mr. Weber explained that he spoke to people in both Jefferson and South Plainfield. The Township Clerk in South Plainfield explained that they don't have anyone trained to measure the sound levels. Jefferson Township sent three (3) police officers to Rutgers to be trained (\$150 each for one day) and bought a noise meter (\$600). Both towns reported very little use of the meter because police presence is usually enough to impede the noise. Mr. Weber opined that noise ordinances are useful as a parameter to measure development applications against. Mr. Weber also wrote a proposed letter that could go to either the Land Use Board or the Township Committee recommending the noise ordinance. Mr. Teasdale agreed to forward the ordinances and draft letter mentioned so that the Commission can discuss the issue in June.

Mr. Likus noted that he enjoys the quiet of Tewksbury but was concerned that a noise ordinance would create a problem for farming. Mr. Weber explained that whatever ordinance Tewksbury adopts would have to be tailored to the needs of the township. Mr. Teasdale opined that the Right To Farm act would trump the noise ordinance.

- Land Use Board Application Review

Sheft – Application No. 11-04

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding impervious coverage variances and the cumulative

impact on the township. Mr. Mackie noted that he could not think of an instance where the Board didn't require the applicant to mitigate by bringing the recharge to the equivalent of the maximum permitted coverage for the district.

The Commission agreed to recommend that the applicant reduce or mitigate impervious coverage wherever possible (walks, patios, etc.).

Blauvelt – Application No. 11-03

The Commission had no comment.

Fernandes – Application No. 11-06

Mr. Teasdale and Ms. Ace recused themselves because the applicant may have constructed a rock wall within an easement owned by the Tewksbury Land Trust.

Mr. Mackie left the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

The Commission had no comment on the Fernandes application.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Colitti made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Weber seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild  
Land Use Administrator