

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
January 9, 2012**

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: Chairman Chris Teasdale, Joe Weber, Glenn Likus, Mary Ace, Matt Grobert, Bruce Mackie and Mario Colitti (arrived at 7:40 p.m.).

Absent: Robert Hoffman and Tom Schroth.

**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 December 8, 2011.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chairman Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public.

Mayor Dana Desiderio was present and administered the Oath of Office for those members that were reappointed.

Mayor Desiderio noted that the common theme she's hearing from the volunteers is that they don't have a purpose. She noted that the fact is the volunteers are needed to keep Tewksbury as beautiful as it is. She asked how the Environmental Commission felt and what they needed from the Township Committee.

Mr. Teasdale opined that the Environmental Commission could be more beneficial if the Commission knew about projects in advance; for example the plans for the Bellemead parcels. Mr. Colitti agreed and noted that it is important for the Commission to be proactive rather than reactive.

A discussion ensued regarding the Bellemead tract, ratables and the impact of opting in to the Highlands. Several Commission members felt that the Bellemead tract could be preserved.

Mr. Likus opined that keeping communication open between all of the Boards, Commission and Committees is critical.

Mr. Weber reminded everyone that the Master Plan drives the future zoning of the township and if there is concern about the future of the Bellemead tract then the Land Use Board should address it in the Master Plan.

The Commission talked about having a round table with the Township Committee, Land Use Board, the tax assessor and possibly someone from Rutgers to talk about the economic benefit of

commercial projects on the Bellemead property. Mr. Colitti and Ms. Ace noted that there are studies that don't support the ratable scenario being discussed.

Mr. Mackie hoped that the Township would consider some of the ordinances that the Commission worked on a few years ago (that were tabled due to the Highlands).

Mr. Grobert asked to get more updates on the Land Use Board applications that get reviewed by the Environmental Commission. Mr. Mackie agreed to provide more details about the approvals or even provide the resolution of approval. It was noted that the minutes of the Land Use Board meetings are posted on the Township webpage.

Mayor Desiderio encouraged the Commission to send a letter to the Township Committee asking for a roundtable with Township Committee for the next available agenda. Mr. Teasdale agreed to send the letter.

There being no other members of the public present, Mr. Teasdale closed the public participation portion of the meeting and thanked the Mayor for attending.

#### **CLAIM**

A motion was made by Ms. Ace and seconded by Mr. Mackie to approve the claim in the amount of \$320 for the basic membership (without the workshop program). The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Colitti, Mr. Likus, Mr. Mackie, Mr. Weber, Ms. Ace, Mr. Grobert and Mr. Teasdale.

Nays: None

1. 2012 ANJEC Membership Dues - \$320 (*this includes \$280 for 7 members plus \$40 for 2 additional members. If you choose the Workshop plan please approve a claim in the amount of \$380 – you chose the workshop plan in 2011*).

#### **RESOLUTION**

- Resolution No. 12-01 – Annual Meeting Dates

The following resolution was approved by motion of Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Mackie. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY RESOLUTION NO. 12-01**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, requires that certain notices of meetings be submitted to the press and other interested persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Environmental Commission of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The schedule of regular meetings of the Environmental Commission for 2012 is hereby approved.
2. The Land Use Administrator is designated as the person responsible for the distribution of the following list of regular meetings and those other than regular meetings to those persons and newspapers that request same.

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| January 9   | July 9       |
| February 13 | August 13    |
| March 12    | September 10 |
| April 9     | October 15   |
| May 14      | November 19  |
| June 11     | December 10  |

3. The Land Use Administrator is also designated as the person responsible for posting the list of regular meetings and notice of any other meetings on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filing same in the Municipal Office.
4. The Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat are hereby designated to receive all notices of meetings as required under this Act, as it is determined that these are newspapers which would fulfill the requirements of the Act.
5. Requests for notice made by interested persons and news media shall be granted without cost.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Those in Favor: Mr. Colitti, Mr. Likus, Mr. Mackie, Mr. Weber, Ms. Ace, Mr. Grobert and Mr. Teasdale

Those Opposed: None

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- a) North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council Project Proposal Form from Robert Horton.
- b) Invoice and Voucher Certification Form for 2012 Membership Dues and Workshops for 2012.

In reviewing item a) Mr. Teasdale reminded the Commission that Mr. Horton is the gentlemen from Bound Brook who wants to help with the water issues that flood Bound Brook. He documented many of the stream crossings and went to a Rutgers workshop regarding stream

restoration. He has submitted a project proposal form that Tewksbury would send to the North Jersey Resource Conservation Development Council to restore stream banks along the Rockaway (NJRCDC). Mr. Teasdale opined that someone should call the NJRCDC and find out about the form and what the expectations are. Ms. Ace offered to get more information.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### ➤ Highlands Environmental Resource Inventory

Mr. Teasdale read into the record the e-mail from Ms. Goodchild requesting the Commission's comments on the Highlands ERI. Mr. Teasdale noted that the Highlands ERI was basically prepared by Debbie Kratzer using the Highlands Council template. The draft was submitted to the Highlands Council and the version forwarded by Ms. Goodchild is the edited document. Mr. Teasdale opined that the majority of the edits by the Highlands are related to land mass and is not something that the Environmental Commission needs to worry about. Mr. Teasdale agreed to send a memo to the Land Use Board.

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

### **Land Use Board**

Mr. Mackie noted that he was not present at the last Land Use Board meeting but he believes both the Taggart and Lauezzari applications were approved. Mr. Mackie noted that Taggart was approved without much discussion but the Lauezzari application was more of a debate regarding the living space above the garage turning into a dwelling unit.

Mr. Mackie also noted that the Board discussed the philosophy of granting variances. Although he was not present for the discussion generally past discussions have been that each application should be reviewed on its own merits.

When asked about the Woods tennis court application, Mr. Mackie reported that the Board approved the application to allow the tennis court to remain with a condition that the property owner plant landscaping to mitigate the visual impacts on the neighbor.

### **Forestry Advisory Board**

Mr. Schroth was not present.

### **Pascale Advisory Committee**

Mr. Teasdale had nothing new to report.

Mr. Teasdale noted that he received correspondence from the Readington Township Environmental Commission asking Tewksbury to be aware of what is going on at the A.M. Best property regarding an application for a transition area waiver. It was noted that the project for a re-alignment of the roadway and data center was withdrawn. Mr. Teasdale asked Ms. Goodchild to place it on the correspondence list and provide a copy to the rest of the Commission at the February meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Weber made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Mr. Mackie seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild