

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
November 19, 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 7:31 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chairman Chris Teasdale, Mario Colitti, Bruce Mackie, Mary Ace, Joe Weber, Tom Schroth,

Absent: Matt Grobert, Glenn Likus and Robert Hoffman

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 10, 2012.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Per the Commission discussion at the April 9, 2012 meeting the pledge of allegiance was not recited by the Commission members. Mr. Teasdale read into the record the transcript of the Gettysburg Address:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) ANJEC White Paper – Solar Siting and Sustainable Land Use.
- b) A copy of a letter dated October 9, 2012 from NJDEP to Paul Delman re: Block 13, Lot 3 - Notice of Technical Incompleteness.

Mr. Teasdale opined that the white paper regarding solar was worth discussing and asked that Ms. Goodchild list it on the December agenda for discussion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Forestry Advisory Board – Mr. Schroth had nothing to report.

Pascale Advisory Committee – Mr. Teasdale had nothing to report.

Land Use Board – Mr. Mackie had nothing to report.

- Community Well Testing Update

Mr. Mackie thanked Mr. Weber for his help manning the table on the collection mornings. Mr. Mackie noted that he has received several e-mails from the Raritan Watershed Association indicating that they are still struggling to get back on line since the storm. While they do not have all of the data back from the labs anyone that had any result that exceeded the limits were contacted either by mail or e-mail. Mr. Mackie noted that at some point they will provide their full reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Weber explained that he has thought for some time that the business of stringing fragile copper wires on skinny wooden poles through heavily wooded areas at a time when there continues to be increasing severe weather conditions is not practical. He would like the Township to request that the Board of Public Utilities open a proceeding to explore the potential to alternative methods of electrical distribution, particularly in wooded areas. He asked if the Commission would endorse a letter to the Township Committee requesting them to petition the State BPU to open this proceeding. Ms. Ace opined that it would at least start a dialogue. Mr. Teasdale pointed out that it is obvious that it is an expensive project but it is important to begin the discussion. When asked by Mr. Teasdale if the Commission was in favor of having Mr. Weber draft this letter, the Commission members present responded in the positive. Mr. Weber agreed to draft the letter and circulate it to the Board members.

Mr. Colitti asked if the DRO requires any new lines to be placed underground. Mr. Weber opined that it is likely that the Township requires all new local distribution lines in subdivisions to be placed underground. Mr. Mackie noted that the lines coming from the

new substation will be underground until it reaches the lines on Old Turnpike Road at which point they will be above ground.

Mr. Colitti reminded the Commission that articles need to be prepared for the Times of Tewksbury regarding the water chestnut issue at the Pascale Pond. When asked by Ms. Ace if the Township Committee responded to the letter sent by the Commission regarding dredging, Mr. Teasdale indicated that he received no response. A discussion ensued about the possibility of dredging and Mr. Teasdale reminded the Commission the explanation of dredging provided by Mr. Likus which seemed to render that as an unacceptable solution. Mr. Teasdale noted that the lilies were gone but the seed pods were floating near the banks. Mr. Colitti offered to visit the pond and attempt to remove them if possible. Mr. Teasdale offered to find out if the Township Committee had any response to the letter written by the Environmental Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Schroth made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild