

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
December 10, 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 7:33 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chairman Chris Teasdale, Matt Grobert, Glenn Likus, Robert Hoffman, Mario Colitti arrived at 7:36, Bruce Mackie, Mary Ace and Tom Schroth

Absent: Joe Weber

**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. Ms. Ace read into the record the following from Abraham Lincoln 1861 Inaugural Address:

*“We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”*

*“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”*

**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.

**MINUTES**

➤ October 15, 2012

Mr. Schroth made a motion to approve the October 15, 2012 minutes. Mr. Grobert seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Mackie, Mr. Ace and Mr. Hoffman abstained.

➤ November 19, 2012

Mr. Schroth made a motion to approve the November 19, 2012 minutes. Ms. Ace seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Grobert, Mr. Likus and Mr. Hoffman abstained.

A discussion ensued regarding the dredging of the Pascale Park pond and the process for removal.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- a) Support funding request from North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development.
- b) A copy of the letter dated Nov. 27, 2012 from the Environmental Commission to the Township Committee re: a request to petition the NJ Board of Public Utilities to open a proceeding to examine alternative means of delivering electricity in heavily wooded areas.
- c) A letter dated Dec. 6, 2012 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 12-11, Gale/Fantozzi, Block 26, Lot 4.

- a) Mr. Teasdale noted that this organization has worked with the Tewksbury Land Trust and other non-profits as well as Tewksbury Township. Mr. Schroth made a motion to make a donation of \$50.00 to the NJRC&D. Ms. Ace seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

- b) Mr. Teasdale offered to go before Township Committee to discuss this letter as well as the letter the Commission wrote regarding the water chestnuts at the Pascale Park pond.
- c) Mr. Teasdale read the application into the record. After a brief discussion, the Commission had no comment on the application since it has no environmental impact.

### **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 noted that the FAB will be attending a Township Committee meeting on Tuesday to get guidance regarding future projects and how the

FAB should interface with other Boards, Committees and Commissions. Mr. Schroth noted that some of the Township Parks are being taken over by invasive species and threatening to impact the use of the parks. The FAB would like to see if the Township would be willing to fund an evaluation of the wooded open space. Mr. Schroth opined that if the Township Committee is unwilling to fund these types of projects than the need for the FAB is not there and activities like Arbor Day can be assumed by another Board. He opined that the Parks Committee, Pascale Advisory Committee and Scenic Roads and Bridges Commission are underutilized. When asked what funding they are going to request, Mr. Schroth explained that they would request funding for a professional consultant to evaluate the wooded open lands and make a formal recommendation as to what needs to be done to maintain the vitality of those lands.

Mr. Teasdale noted that the Tewksbury Land Trust has made a significant shift to put significant money into stewardship and maintenance. He agreed that the land becomes useless if the trails, etc. are not maintained for hikers, riders, etc.

Mr. Hoffman noted that a few years ago the Township Committee tried to consolidate some of the Boards, Committees and Commissions but they didn't want to consolidate.

Mr. Teasdale noted that the Boy Scouts did work at the Hell Mountain Preserve and did a good job with the trail maintenance; it would be great if the Township could encourage that in other areas.

Pascale Advisory Committee – Mr. Teasdale noted that there has been no activity with the group.

Land Use Board – Mr. Mackie reported on an issue that the Board dealt with regarding lots that don't abut a public roadway; the Board agreed to empower the Land Use Administrator and Zoning Officer with the ability to waive, under certain circumstances, the need to apply to the Land Use Board for a Planning variance.

➤ 2013 Budget

Mr. Teasdale read into the record the letter from Jess Landon to Department Heads dated December 4, 2012 regarding budgets. Mr. Teasdale noted that minor expenditures have always been included in the Land Use Budget (copying, workshop attendance, etc.).

Mr. Teasdale suggested that the Commission request \$15,000 for water chestnut removal if the Township Committee wants to begin to eradicate the invasive species from the Pascale Pond. The Commission members agreed. Mr. Teasdale outlined for the members the other annual expenditures such as membership dues for ANJEC and Raritan Watershed, donation to NJRC&D and miscellaneous training workshops.

Mr. Mackie asked if the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) needed to be re-examined. Mr. Teasdale noted that the ERI is a voluntary document and doesn't require periodic review. Ms. Ace suggested requesting \$2,500 for a Planner if the Master Plan is

revised or if there is any Highlands implication and there is a need to update the ERI.

- Solar Siting and Sustainable Land Use – discussion of ANJEC White Paper distributed in November.

The solar siting discussion was tabled until January, 2013. Ms. Ace offered to get a copy of the Hamilton Township ordinance prior to the January meeting. Mr. Teasdale asked Mr. Schroth to lead the discussion in January to which he agreed. Ms. Ace opined that the Township should adopt an ordinance to regulate solar farms; the Township should be proactive not reactive.

- Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts

Money will be requested in the budget and articles will be written for the Times of Tewksbury to solicit volunteer support for removal of the water chestnuts.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Schroth made a motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Mr. Grobert seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild