

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
March 12, 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, Glenn Likus, Tom Schroth, Mary Ace, Bruce Mackie and Mario Colitti

Absent: Robert Hoffman, Matt Grobert and 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

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

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 February 13, 2012 were approved by motion of Mr. Mackie and seconded by Mr. Likus. All were in favor. Ms. Ace abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated February 13, 2012 from Robert Horton re: Lamington River stream site report.
- b) A letter dated February 20, 2012 from Robert Horton re: Rockaway Creek stream site report.
- c) Notice from Laurel Rose dated March 5, 2012 re: NJDEP general permit authorization for construction of a new disposal field to replace an existing malfunctioning septic system at 42 Water Street, Block 32, Lot 29.01.
- d) Notice from PSE&G regarding application to NJDEP for modified freshwater wetlands statewide general permit #2 for installation of new natural gas distribution mains in public rights of way.

- e) A letter dated March 6, 2012 from Shana Goodchild re: Nextel of New York, Inc. d/b/a Sprint, Block 11, Lot 38.01 for location of cell tower on existing GPU tower.

Items a) and b) - Mr. Teasdale explained that he spoke to Cindy Ehrenclou, Executive Director of Raritan Headwaters, and they do not get involved with significant stream bank restoration which involves machinery, DEP permits, etc. They do handle riparian plantings projects to stabilize the soil and create riparian zones and buffers. She recommended finding a stream on Township land so it's an easier process. Mr. Teasdale offered to pass this on to Mr. Horton as a possible project noting that manpower is limited.

Item c) – it was noted that the property owner is constructing a new septic to replace a failing system. Mr. Likus noted that the type of permit applied for can be applied for on-line; it used to take 30 days and now only takes a few days.

Item d) – Mr. Teasdale agreed to ask Ms. Goodchild to see if she can get a map of the right of ways impacted.

Item e) – Mr. Teasdale explained that the application is to install an antenna at the top of an existing utility tower. It was the consensus of the Commission that the project does not have an impact on anything that the Commission is concerned about.

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 new to report.

Pascale Advisory Committee – Mr. Teasdale noted that Ms. Goodchild has been trying to coordinate a meeting; that date is TBD.

Land Use Board – Mr. Mackie noted that the opposition to the Johnson Helistop presented its professional planner at the last hearing. Public comment will be held March 21, 2012 at the Tewksbury Elementary School. On Highlands news, Mr. Mackie noted that the Township Committee voted 3 to 2 to move forward with continuing the process of opting in to the Highlands; the Land Use Board will begin working on that process.

- 2012 Community Well Testing – will the Commission be offering the program this year and if so when

Mr. Teasdale noted that URWA merged with South Branch and they are now the Raritan Headwaters Association and they will handle the well water testing. The consensus of the Commission was to hold the program in the fall.

Mr. Teasdale reminded the Commission that a letter was received from the Readington Township Environmental Commission encouraging Tewksbury to keep an eye on the

A.M. Best project. A discussion ensued regarding the various plans for the property, the first being a relocation of the driveway and access road along with a proposed data center which was withdrawn. The most recent application was for a slight modification to the access road (as it merges with the A.M. Best parking lot) and modifications to the parking lot to accommodate additional parking. The Commission agreed to review any new applications to the Land Use Board or notices of NJDEP permit applications.

Mr. Likus spoke about the Felmley Road area and the poor septic suitability and asked what is or has been done about the issue. Mr. Mackie was not aware of any planned public sewer service area to service any property. Discussion ensued regarding the area a public system would need to cover and the cost.

The Commission commented about some of the unnecessary cutting by JCP&L noting that many of the trees removed posed no threat to the lines.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Ace made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Schroth seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild