

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
July 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, Bruce Mackie, Mario Colitti arrived at 7:38 p.m., Mary Ace and Glenn Likus

Absent: Tom Schroth, Joe Weber, Robert Hoffman 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 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.

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 June 11, 2012 were tabled.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated June 11, 2012 from Raritan Headwaters Association regarding the Association's Fall 2012 Community Well Testing Program.
- b) A letter dated July 2, 2012 from Shana Goodchild re: variance Appl. No. 12-08, Snyder, Block 11, Lot 9.16.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Invasive Water Chestnuts at Pascale Farm Park pond

Mr. Teasdale noted that the Environmental Commission adopted a resolution at the last meeting requesting that the Township Committee engage the Township Engineer to do a study to drain the Pascale pond and muck out the seeds and refill. The resolution was forwarded to the Township Committee and will appear on their July 10th correspondence

list. Mr. Teasdale offered to call Mayor Desiderio to discuss the matter with her prior to the Township Committee meeting. Mr. Teasdale explained that Ms. Goodchild called Melissa Almendinger (NJ Invasive Task Force) and got information on two (2) firms (Princeton Hydro and Allied Biological) that might provide quotes for the work. Mr. Likus noted that an NJDEP permit would be required to dredge a pond and that the cost to dredge the pond would be in excess of \$30,000; the work requires a very specialized excavator. Ms. Ace noted that the Township Committee needs to understand the severity of the issue; if they want to continue to have a pond on the property something needs to be done. In conclusion, Mr. Teasdale agreed to call the two (2) firms suggested by Ms. Almendinger.

➤ **Community Well Testing Dates**

Mr. Mackie noted that there is a new program coordinator since the merger of the two (2) watershed organizations. The types of tests and costs are the same. When asked about the discount offered to residents by using the program, Mr. Mackie explained that the \$50 basic test offered by the Township typically costs \$90. The dates for drop off are tentatively scheduled for October 10th and 11th and the kits will be available for purchase in September. Mr. Teasdale offered to send the standard press release to the Tewksbury Times for their August publication and another article in September as a reminder. Mr. Likus, Mr. Mackie and Mr. Colitti offered to help on the mornings of October 10th and 11th.

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

Forestry Advisory Board – due to Mr. Schroth’s absence no report was provided.

Land Use Board – Mr. Mackie noted that the final subdivision for the NJ Conservation Foundation preservation of the Hill and Dale Road was approved at the last meeting.

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

LAND USE BOARD APPLICATION

- A letter dated July 2, 2012 from Shana Goodchild re: variance Appl. No. 12-08, Snyder, Block 11, Lot 9.16.

Mr. Teasdale read the application into the record. The applicant requested an impervious coverage variance and side yard setback variance in order to construct a detached garage, pool, pool shed, deck and cabana. The Commission reviewed the plans of the proposed project and discussed the functionality of dry wells. Mr. Teasdale offered to prepare an e-mail to Ms. Goodchild with a copy to Mr. Mackie noting that the Commission discussed the application and raised the following points for the Land Use Board’s consideration:

- 1) The Env. Comm. urges the LUB to seek any scale back in impervious coverage wherever possible. Although dry wells can mitigate problems related to recharge, there

are other issues related to impervious coverage that dry wells do not address (e.g., see item 3, below).

2) The plans were not explicit on how leaders and gutters would connect to the proposed dry well. We assume the LUB will get detailed answers to that engineering issue.

3) Sheet flow is an important element of ground water movement. Where in the past, rainwater and snow melt from impervious surfaces on the Snyder's estate moved out to the yard and thence downhill toward the tree stand at the north end of the property, the dry well and the proposed garage will impede and/or eliminate that flow. We tend to engineer for direct human concerns -- "recharge the water into the aquifer!" -- but we forget that native vegetation pulls much of its water from the natural sheet flow that moves through the surface and subsurface soils. In times of drought, the loss of that flow is apparent as the woods begin to dry up. Care should be taken in the engineering to make sure that not all sheet flow is cut off to the trees at the north end of the property.

4) We have no direct comment on the incursion into the set-back zone, however, if neighbors were concerned about that incursion, our opinion would be to move the pool and cabana closer to the center of the house, thus eliminating much of the incursion.

5) We assume that the pool will be filled with trucked-in water and not drawn from the underlying aquifer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Teasdale made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Likus seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild