

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 14, 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, Tom Schroth, Joe Weber, Bruce Mackie, Mario Colitti and Glenn Likus arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Absent: Robert Hoffman, Matt Grobert and Mary Ace

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 pledged 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 April 9, 2012 were approved with a minor edit on page two (2) by motion of Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Schroth. All were in favor. Mr. Colitti abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) Notice from PSE&G dated March, 2012 regarding application to NJDEP in support of a BPU and NERC Vegetation Maintenance Compliance Project.
- b) Notice from Jeff Tareila Environmental Consulting dated May 4, 2012 regarding application to NJDEP for a Statewide General Permit #25 for Block 45, Lot 13 (30 Felmley Road).
- c) A letter dated March 13, 2012 from Raritan Headwaters Association regarding membership contribution. *In past years we have donated \$150 to SBWA however they have merged so if you would like to make the donation to Raritan Headwaters please approve with a motion and roll call vote.*

- d) A letter dated May 8, 2012 from Shana Goodchild re: NJ Conservation Foundation, Block 51, Lot 80 for Preliminary/Final Major Subdivision and Variance approval.

With regard to Item a) no action was taken as the Commission felt that this is standard procedure by the utility company.

With regard to Item b) Mr. Mackie noted that the permit is being sought for a failed septic. No Commission action was necessary.

With regard to Item c) Mr. Teasdale noted that the Commission has always budgeted for and approved a donation of \$150 to the South Branch Watershed Association (SBWA) which has now merged with the Upper Raritan Watershed Association and become the Raritan Headwaters Association. He noted that SBWA has helped the Commission with the well water testing program and so Ms. Goodchild opined that the donation could be given to the parent association. The Commission approved a donation of \$150 to the Raritan Headwaters Associate by motion of Mr. Schroth and seconded by Mr. Mackie. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Mr. Colitti, Mr. Mackie, Mr. Weber, Mr. Schroth and Mr. Teasdale

Nays: None

With regard to Item d) Mr. Teasdale explained that the NJ Conservation Foundation has been working with the Rothpletz family to preserve their farm and a few phases of the effort has involved the Tewksbury Land Trust money and so he recused himself due to his position with the Tewksbury Land Trust.

Mr. Mackie noted that there are variances involved with the application due to some of the existing farm buildings. When asked if there is any construction proposed, Mr. Mackie responded in the negative. The Commission had no objection or comment given the nature of the application.

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 Arbor Day celebration was on April 27th at the Tewksbury Elementary School. A trustee from the Audubon Society provided a presentation to the children about birds and a peach tree was planted and dedicated to Tom Larsen who passed away last year; his two (2) sons attend the Pascale School and helped to plant the tree. He noted that there is an older apple orchard near the school and so the Forestry Advisory Board decided to start another orchard in the open field next to it; last year an apple tree was planted. Discussion ensued regarding protection of the trees from deer browsing. Mr. Schroth thanked Mr. Landon, Mr. Hull

and Ms. Goodchild for their help with the Arbor Day celebration.

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

Land Use Board – Mr. Mackie reported that the Board heard closing arguments on the Johnson Helistop and voted 4 to 3 to deny the application.

Mr. Mackie also noted that there is a sub-committee formed to continue on with the Highlands Master Plan Element review.

➤ Invasive Water Chestnuts at Pascale Farm Park pond

It was reported by Mr. Teasdale that the water chestnuts are growing heavily again at the Pascale Farm Park pond. He explained that Melissa Almendinger, NJ Strike Force Coordinator reached out to all of her contacts to see if there is funding available to get mechanical assistance to remove the water chestnuts from the pond but funding for municipalities is scarce. Mr. Teasdale noted that Ms. Goodchild agreed to reach out to Green Acres to see if there is funding available since Pascale is a Green Acres funded parcel.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Schroth made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild