

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
January 14, 2013**

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, Glenn Likus, Mario Colitti, Bruce Mackie and Mary Ace

Absent: Matt Grobert, Robert Hoffman 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 December 17, 2012.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

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

➤ December 10, 2012

Ms. Ace made a motion to approve the December 10, 2012 minutes with a correction to the Abraham Lincoln quote on page one (1) by adding "1861 Inaugural Address". Mr. Mackie seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CLAIM

2013 ANJEC Membership Dues - \$320 (*this includes \$280 for 7 members plus \$40 for 2 additional members. If you choose the Workshop plan please approve a claim in the amount of \$380 – you did not choose the workshop plan in 2012*).

Ms. Ace made a motion to approve the claim to pay the membership dues excluding the workshop plan. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A copy of an NJDEP Wetlands permit dated December 11, 2012 from Mark Sarubbi, Block 12, Lot 17.
- b) A copy of a letter dated November 29, 2012 from NJDEP to Paul Delman re: Highlands Act Exemption #2, Block 13, Lot 3.
- c) A copy of the Hamilton Township, NJ Renewable energy generating facilities ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution No. 13-01 – Annual Meeting Dates

Mr. Colitti made a motion to approve the following resolution. Mr. Mackie seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY
RESOLUTION NO. 13-01**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, requires that certain notices of meetings be submitted to the press and other interested persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Environmental Commission of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. The schedule of regular meetings of the Environmental Commission for 2013 is hereby approved.
- 2. The Land Use Administrator is designated as the person responsible for the distribution of the following list of regular meetings and those other than regular meetings to those persons and newspapers that request same.

January 14	July 8
February 11	August 12
March 11	September 9
April 8	October 21
May 13	November 18
June 10	December 9

- 3. The Land Use Administrator is also designated as the person responsible for posting the list of regular meetings and notice of any other meetings on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filing same in the Municipal Office.
- 4. The Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat are hereby

designated to receive all notices of meetings as required under this Act, as it is determined that these are newspapers which would fulfill the requirements of the Act.

5. Requests for notice made by interested persons and news media shall be granted without cost.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Those in Favor: Mr. Colitti, Mr. Mackie, Mr. Likus, Ms. Ace and Mr. Teasdale

Those Opposed: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Solar Siting and Sustainable Land Use – discuss ANJEC White Paper distributed in November

Mr. Teasdale reported on the following points from his review of the white paper from ANJEC:

- Solar is highly incentivized (both federal and state)
- Momentum growing to install the large scale units on existing farmland and open spaces
- State Energy Master Plan is concerned about losing productive lands to solar arrays
- Christie administration does not support the use of ratepayer subsidies to turn productive farmland into grid supply solar facilities
- Locating solar farms can be located in places that don't have to use productive farmland (rooftops, landfills, brownfields, etc.)
- Appropriate siting and conditions (inherently beneficial use)
- Large scale projects are generally larger than 1 megawatt
- Tradable solar certificates that have financial value
- Competition for grid access
- Provides jobs
- In a depressed housing market land owners are looking for alternates to traditional real estate and solar companies are willing to buy the land
- Solar arrays more prominent in southern NJ because land prices are lower
- Fast growing technology may lead to decommissioning of the material too rapidly

Mr. Teasdale noted that the ANJEC report encourages municipalities to identify many things in their Master Plans/ERI's such as soils, environmentally critical areas, farmland preservation programs; Tewksbury has done all of that in either the Master Plan or ERI; Tewksbury is prepared from a planning standpoint.

Mr. Teasdale suggested discussing the ordinance preparation points and the Hamilton Township ordinance at the February Environmental Commission meeting. He suggested that the Environmental Commission make recommendations to the Land Use Board after the Commission concludes its research.

➤ Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts

Mr. Teasdale read the following into the record which is an article he prepared to send to the Times of Tewksbury:

An Invasion of Water Chestnuts

The Pascale Pond near the Tewksbury Township Elementary School is choked with invasive water chestnuts (trapa natans). Where children once could throw a fishing line and troll for trout or sunnies, they now get entangled in a hundred aquatic plants that look similar to lilies, without the beautiful flower. Two years ago, the township's Environmental Commission partnered with the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team, which brought in an expensive aquatic harvester and helped clear the pond of the noxious weed. However, seedpods lie dormant in the pond sediment and harvesting is required year after year until the seeds are spent. Unfortunately, the chestnuts roared back and were more plentiful than ever last summer. Due to a lack of funds, we are not able to bring back the harvester.

In an effort to combat this invasive species and reclaim the pond, the Environmental Commission would like to sign up volunteers to help harvest the weeds this summer. We will provide more information about dates, expectations, tools, and the like as the warmer weather approaches. If you are interested in helping, please send an e-mail to the Township Land Use Administrator, Ms. Shana Goodchild (slgoodchild@tewksburytp.net) and put "Pascale Pond" in the subject line. We hope to hear from you.

*Christopher Teasdale
Chair, Tewksbury Township Environmental Commission*

The Commission approved the article and suggested a follow up article in the Spring.

A discussion ensued about the process used a few years ago to remove the seed pods.

➤ Updates from Boards, Committees and Commissions

Land Use Board – Mr. Mackie reported on the Land Use Board Re-organization meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Ms. Ace seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild