

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 21, 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 7:40 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chairman Chris Teasdale, Mario Colitti, Bruce Mackie and Glenn Likus.

Absent: Mary Ace, Robert Hoffman, Joe Weber, Glenn Stein, Alt. #1 and Matt Grobert, Alt. #2.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Chris Teasdale 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 15, 2013.

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

➤ September 9, 2013

Mr. Colitti made a motion to approve the September 9, 2013 minutes. Mr. Likus seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated September 25, 2013 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 13-03, Cellco Partnership, Block 44, Lot 26.
- b) A letter dated October 2, 2013 from Angela Gorczyca at Raritan Headwaters Association

DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts

Mr. Teasdale noted that he is close to completing the imovie of the water chestnut eradication and intends to have it complete for the November meeting. Mr. Colitti reported that he and Mr. Teasdale returned to the both Pascale ponds on October 5, 2013 to examine the status of the ponds. He noted that many of the seed pods were floating on

the surface of the pond and nets were used to remove them but there are still a significant amount left to remove so more man power is needed. Mr. Colitti opined that getting volunteers to scoop up the floating pods in combination with the chemical treatment planned for next year will help tremendously. Mr. Teasdale noted that there are a few water chestnuts on the upper pond but the infestation is not as bad.

➤ Update on Annual Community Water Testing Program

Mr. Mackie noted that the program went well with 40 people the first day and approximately 25 people the second day; not as many people participated as in past years. He noted that a few people opted to test for everything but mostly basic kits were sold. When asked if there is any room for process improvement, Mr. Mackie suggested sending out a bulletin to remind people to read the instructions included in the packets since so many people failed to follow directions.

➤ Updates – Land Use Board

The Commission reviewed the application material and plans for the Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon project, Appl. No. 13-03, Block 44, Lot 26. Mr. Teasdale reminded the Commission that the job of the Commission is to comment on the environmental impact of the project on the village of Oldwick and general area. Mr. Likus noted that the property falls within the Oldwick Historic District but that the actual site of the tower is outside of the district boundary so the biggest concern for the Historic Preservation Commission is the visual impact. When asked if it is being placed where the fruit trees are, Mr. Likus opined that it is at the edge of the orchard. Mr. Teasdale noted that the application discusses three (3) alternate sites in the RF Analysis and specifically noted that a PSE&G pole on 20 Hill and Dale Road was not pursued because PSE&G didn't reply. Mr. Teasdale opined that the applicant should have made more of an effort to get a response. Mr. Teasdale suggested that the church steeple in Oldwick might be a good alternative since it is no longer a church. Mr. Likus opined that the cost would be too much to retrofit the steeple to carry the hardware required. Mr. Teasdale disagreed and noted that he has seen cell infrastructure on many things including water towers, telephone poles, etc. Mr. Likus opined that the PSE&G towers already obstruct the pastoral view of Tewksbury and should be an avenue that should be investigated a little more thoroughly. Mr. Likus opined that the environmental impact is small compared to the exposure the property already gets from farming; the visual impact is intense. When asked by Mr. Mackie if lights are proposed, Mr. Teasdale didn't see a reference to proposed lights on the plan. Mr. Likus noted that the PSE&G towers don't have lights so the cell tower may not be required to have lights. He added that he has Verizon as a service provider and he has great service in Oldwick so he was unsure of the need. When asked if a generator is proposed, Mr. Teasdale responded in the positive. Mr. Teasdale offered to prepare a letter with the following comments:

1. Discrepancy in the number of antennae proposed
2. Consider church steeple as an alternative
3. Is lighting proposed

4. Will there be a diesel generator which may have potential for leaking and noise
5. Other alternative sites such as the PSE&G pole should be pursued

Mr. Colitti pointed out that in 1995/1996 the same argument was made that there wasn't enough coverage in Oldwick and they proposed a cell tower on Felmley Road and it was denied for visual and safety issues so it was relocated to the south side of Route 78 where it exists today. He added that the federal government has jurisdiction over cell towers not the State of NJ.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild