

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
August 11, 2014**

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, Mario Colitti, Bruce Mackie, Glenn Stein, Mary Ace, and Geoffrey Connor, Alt. #2.

Absent: Glenn Likus, Robert Hoffman and Matt Grobert, Alt. #1.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Chairman 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 16, 2014.

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 questions from the audience, Mr. Teasdale closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

MINUTES

- July 14, 2014

The minutes of July 14, 2014 were approved with corrections (pages 1, 2 and 3) by motion of Mr. Mackie and seconded by Mr. Connor. All were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) An e-mail dated July 28, 2014 from Angela Gorczyca, Raritan Headwaters re: Environmental Community Service Opportunity (forwarded via e-mail).

Mr. Teasdale offered to reach out to Ms. Gorczyca and suggest that she put an article in the Times of Tewksbury.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Water Chestnut Treatment at Pascale – request for township to pay the cost of water test at Pascale Pond

Mr. Teasdale proposed the following resolution which was amended and approved as follows:

Whereas the Tewksbury Township Environmental Commission (EC) has been concerned about the choking of certain local ponds with the invasive water chestnut (trapa natans),

And whereas the EC has over the years worked with the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Force to try to remove the weeds from Pascale Pond, using both a mechanical harvester and volunteer labor,

And whereas the EC members and township personnel continued to try to fight the infestation at Pascale for several years through volunteer efforts,

And whereas the EC subsequently won a grant from ANJEC to hire a mechanical harvester in 2013 to remove as many of the weeds as possible from Pascale Pond, involving both citizen volunteers and township personnel, clearing at best about 50% of the weeds after significant effort,

And whereas the EC documented the futility of this effort, noting the thousands of floating and sunken seed pods that would continue to germinate for years,

And whereas the Township Administrator, having researched the use of NJDEP approved herbicides to treat other bodies of water, called for a quote from a water management company to apply an herbicide to kill the weeds before they germinate,

And whereas that company was retained to treat both Pascale and Whittemore ponds,

And whereas those treatments applied May 23, 2014 have worked to eliminate any growing weeds (although the seed pods are still viable from earlier years),

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Environmental Commission supports the continued use of the herbicide treatment for the foreseeable future and requests that the Township conduct a standard water test for Pascal Pond water quality at \$60 with the added test for pesticides at \$135 through the annual water testing process the EC runs with the Raritan Headwaters Association.

Ayes: Mary Ace, Mario Colitti, Geoffrey Connor, Bruce Mackie, Glenn Stein, Chris Teasdale

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

➤ Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie noted that the Land Use Board considered an application by the Oldwick Fire

Company for an electronic sign at the site of the firehouse in Oldwick. The Board questioned the messages to be displayed, need of the sign, who would be permitted to advertise, etc. The Oldwick Fire Company explained that the sign would be used for emergency messages, new member solicitation, etc. The conclusion was that a site walk would be scheduled and a mock/stick sign would be erected for the Board to consider. When asked by Ms. Ace the justification given by the fire company for the need, Mr. Mackie explained that the fire company feels the proposed sign is more attractive than the sandwich boards currently used and less subject to damage from weather or vandalism. When asked by Mr. Teasdale if there was any public input, Mr. Mackie responded in the negative.

The following letter to the Land Use Board was approved by the Commission:

During our monthly update from Bruce Mackie on applications before the Land Use Board, the Environmental Commission (EC) had a short discussion about the proposed electronic signage to be installed at the Fire House.

Given that the LUB review was informal, the EC understood that there were very few members of the public present for this discussion. We also understood that the LUB wisely called for a site visit with some sort of mock up or facsimile of the signage to be placed for physical review.

Recognizing that this sign/edifice could generate significant public comment if people were duly informed of the application, EC members suggested that the mock-up of the sign stay in place for a few weeks – perhaps with some sort of label saying “intended sign to go here” – so that members of the public have a chance to review and react to the proposal before the LUB makes a decision.

Mr. Mackie noted that the NJ Conservation Foundation appeared before the Land Use Board informally to erect a kiosk at the newly acquired land at the corner of Hill and Dale and Parsonage Lot Road; the kiosk and trail head would be across from the Township’s Hell Mountain Preserve parking lot/kiosk. The kiosk would contain information about the NJCF park and trails. The Board was in favor of the kiosk concept but the proposed sign was a little large and they were encouraged to scale back the size (similar to the size kiosk the Township uses).

➤ Annual Community Well Test Program

Mr. Teasdale noted that an article was put in the August Times of Tewksbury and another reminder article will go in by the deadline for September.

Mr. Grobert and Mr. Colitti offered to help Mr. Mackie on the October 15 and 16 test kit drop off dates.

When asked if anyone could volunteer to take the Pascale Pond water sample if the Township approves the funding, Mr. Colitti volunteered to retrieve the sample the

morning of the drop off date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Ms. Ace seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator