

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
November 17, 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 7:34 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chairman Chris Teasdale, Bruce Mackie, Mario Colitti, Mary Ace, Robert Hoffman, Matt Grobert, Alt. #1 and Geoffrey Connor, Alt. #2.

Absent: Glenn Likus and Glenn Stein

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.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated November 3, 2014 from Shana Goodchild re: Green Power Energy/Becker, Appl. No. 14-14, Block 31, Lot 7.03.
- b) Notice dated October 8, 2014 from American Towers, LLC, Block 44, Lot 26 re: application to NJDEP for LOI and individual transition area waiver for installation of new monopole, equipment compound and adjacent access road connection to King Street.
- c) Resource Paper from ANJEC re: Open Space Is a Good Investment.
- d) Information from Raritan Headwaters re: State of our Watershed Conference, Dec. 6, 2014.
- e) A letter dated November 6, 2014 from Raritan Headwaters Assoc. re: 25th Watershed-wide Annual Stream Cleanup.
- f) Notice dated November 12, 2014 from Bellemead Development Corporation re: LOI application for Block 47, Lot 48 (parcel on the East side of Route 523).

Mr. Teasdale explained that the applicant is requesting to install residential ground

mounted solar panels with concrete footings that will add 40 sq. ft. of new impervious coverage. Mr. Teasdale noted that the Commission has the benefit of the Maser Consulting review letter which was read into the record. The lot coverage is at 15% and the allowable amount is 10%. The applicant is requesting two (2) variances, one (1) for lot coverage and one (1) for a setback variance for the placement of the ground mounted solar panels within the setback. The Commission opined that the 40 sq. ft. of new impervious coverage for the panels is trivial. It was noted that the applicant does not say what the solar power will be used for. It was also noted that the Commission endorses the use of solar power so the .02% additional coverage is for a good purpose. Ms. Ace made a motion to request that the applicant clarify what the solar power will be used for and to endorse the points raised in the Maser report. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Mackie abstained from voting. Mr. Hoffman noted that he is opposed to the suggestion that the panels be placed on the roof from a fire fighting aspect noting that it makes fighting the fire difficult because it hinders access to the roof.

The Commission discussed the notice from American Towers for Block 44, Lot 26. Mr. Mackie noted that a question came up during one of the hearings regarding wetlands in the upper corner of the property and he assumed that they have gone back to investigate the existence. He reminded Commission members that the access roadway comes in from King Street and runs along the upper property line which may impact wetlands or transition areas if they exist. When asked if the LOI will tell the applicant if there are wetlands, Mr. Mackie responded in the positive.

The Commission discussed the Annual Stream Cleanup organized by Raritan Headwaters Association. Mr. Colitti noted that he has volunteered as Tewksbury's coordinator for the April 18, 2015 cleanup. He noted that as the date nears the Commission should discuss the site but he suggested Rockaway Creek near Whittemore Wildlife Sanctuary, south of the quarry. He also noted that the Southbranch near the Vernoy section of Tewksbury also has debris. Mr. Teasdale asked Mr. Colitti to contact Raritan Headwaters with the two (2) sites mentioned. Mr. Mackie made a motion to send a request to the Mayor and Township Committee that they support the Annual Stream Cleanup with a donation of \$300. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Those in Favor: Mr. Colitti, Ms. Ace, Mr. Mackie, Mr. Teasdale, Mr. Grobert, Mr. Connor and Mr. Hoffman

Those Opposed: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Water Chestnut Treatment at Pascale

Mr. Teasdale noted that at the beginning of the year the Commission should encourage the Township to continue treatment of the pond.

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie had nothing new to report.

- Annual Community Well Test Program

Mr. Mackie noted that he received his results and opined that others have as well.

Mr. Connor noted that he attended the ANJEC convention where former Governor Tom Kean gave the keynote speech. He went on to note that some Environmental Commissions were given awards for different projects such as encouraging monarch butterflies. He attended a seminar on water supply and Tewksbury's most polluted stream is the Cold Brook because it goes through active farmland. When Mr. Hoffman asked what it was polluted with, Mr. Connor indicated that it was nitrates from fertilizer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Grobert made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Mr. Connor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator