

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 20, 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 7:32 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

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

Absent: Robert Hoffman.

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

- September 8, 2014

The minutes of September 8, 2014 were approved by Mr. Colitti and seconded by Mr. Mackie with the correction to strike Mario Colitti's name from those absent. All were in favor. Ms. Ace abstained.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Annual Community Well Test Program - *Margaret Logreira, Project Manager for the Raritan Headwaters Association*

Ms. Margaret Logreira and Ms. Angela Gorzyki, both from the Raritan Headwaters Association, were present to discuss groundwater and surface water. Ms. Logreira noted that the Commission had just finished another successful year of the community well test program; the results are starting to come in with five (5) failing results for coliform so far. She presented to the Commission a poster of the entire watershed along with pie charts of the results; the biggest trend being nitrates present everywhere. When asked about nitrates, Ms. Logreira noted that it comes from fertilizer, historic agriculture, etc. She went on to note that Tewksbury's pie charts look slightly different in that there is no arsenic or iron concern and Tewksbury does very well with coliform. Ms. Logreira noted

that Tewksbury has hosted the community well test program for many years and she applauded the Commission. She noted that ideally the Township needs to get more people to test and pointed out on the mapped results the pockets of areas where people are not testing. Mr. Teasdale noted that the Commission has been putting blurbs in the Times of Tewksbury the last few years. Ms. Logreira noted that Ms. Goodchild sends the program flyer to the schools for their virtual backpack which is seen by the parents of all of the children in the Old Turnpike and Tewksbury Elementary Schools. She explained Raritan has targeted certain areas and sent those homeowners a post card about the program. When asked if she will share the pie charts after the 2014 data has been added, Ms. Logreira responded in the positive. She opined that residents of Tewksbury should test for coliform and nitrates more regularly. When asked by Mr. Likus how you treat domestic water for nitrates, Ms. Logreira responded reverse osmosis. When asked what the big contributor is to nitrates, Ms. Logreira responded agriculture or a failing septic system. Ms. Logreira offered her help to support the program. When asked by Mr. Teasdale if sending a mailer card is a lot of work, Ms. Logreira responded in the negative and noted that all she needs is an excel spreadsheet with the names and addresses and Raritan Headwaters Assoc. will cover the mailing costs through a test market budget that they have in place. She noted that she can also narrow the mailer to those who tested in the past but haven't tested in recent years. Ms. Teasdale opined that the Commission should target August of 2015 to send out a mailer in preparation for the October program. Ms. Ace suggested that the Commission also implement a more sophisticated public education campaign; run a series of articles in the Times of Tewksbury about what the results mean. When asked if they have boiler plate articles that Tewksbury could use, Ms. Logreira responded in the positive. Ms. Ace hoped that Tewksbury could work with the schools to somehow get the information into the curriculum. Ms. Logreira agreed to update the data with the 2014 results and the Commission can follow through with some public outreach.

Speaking about surface water, Ms. Gorzyki noted that the Commission has been supporting the stream clean up for many years through the Clean Communities Grant. Ms. Gorzyki explained that in the Spring they do an annual Spring cleanup and the goal is to have all of the towns participate in a clean up on that day; Tewksbury's spring clean up didn't happen in 2014. Mr. Colitti noted that he used to be the coordinator for the Borough of Califon years ago and questioned why Tewksbury doesn't have its own coordinator. Ms. Gorzyki explained that a letter will be sent soon asking municipalities suggesting sites and requesting donations which will be used to purchase supplies for the cleanup. When asked by Mr. Likus how access to the stream is gained, Ms. Gorzyki explained that generally public access to the stream is necessary unless permission is provided by the private landowner. Mr. Colitti noted that an area near Whittemore Wildlife Sanctuary would be a good site. Ms. Gorzyki reiterated that she would need a coordinator from Tewksbury prior to the Spring cleanup.

Ms. Gorzyki also spoke briefly about the Raritan Headwaters Association's stream monitoring program. Ms. Ace noted that the program started in Tewksbury which was funded by Merck; Tewksbury used to monitor 16 sites four (4) times per year.

The Commission thanked Ms. Logreira and Gorzyki for their presentations.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated October 7, 2014 from Shana Goodchild re: Reed, Appl. No. 14-12, Block 45, Lot 21.
- b) Notice dated October 14, 2014 from Andrew and Kathryn Platt, Block 23, Lot 26.03 and Easement on Lot 26 re: application to NJDEP for flood hazard area permit.
- c) Information from ANJEC re: Environmental Leadership: Rising to the Challenge Friday, Oct. 24, 2014.

Mr. Connor noted that he is attending the ANJEC Environmental Leadership conference.

Mr. Mackie noted that the Land Use Board reviewed and approved the Reed application referenced in the correspondence. He explained that the husband is no longer ambulatory and so the homeowners were seeking permission to expand the rear of their home to enlarge the bedroom. During the application process they discovered they had a shed, deck and a pool that was non-conforming. The application sought relief for the proposed expansion to the home and for the non-conforming shed and deck. They also removed the swimming pool to reduce the impervious coverage.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Water Chestnut Treatment at Pascale

No new information.

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie noted that the Land Use Board voted, unanimously, to deny the Oldwick Fire Company sign application.

Mr. Mackie thanked Mr. Grobert and Mr. Colitti for their help with the annual water testing program.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Colitti made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Mr. Mackie seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator