

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
July 13, 2015**

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: Chris Teasdale, Chairman, Bruce Mackie, Mary Ace, Matt Grobert and Geoffrey Connor, Alt. #1 arrived at 7:34 p.m.

Absent: Glenn Likus, Mario Colitti and Robert Hoffman.

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 13, 2015.

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

➤ June 8, 2015

The minutes of June 8, 2015 were approved by Ms. Ace and seconded by Mr. Mackie. All were in favor. Mr. Teasdale abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated June 22, 2015 from Shana Goodchild re: Oldwick Properties, LLP, Block 47.01, Lot 45, expansion of a non-conforming use/structure/minor site plan waiver.
- b) A letter dated July 6, 2015 from Shana Goodchild re: Habucky, Block 11, Lot 9.04, impervious coverage variance.
- c) Citizens to Save Tewksbury Alert: Newly Proposed Affordable Housing Numbers conflict with Highlands Regional Master Plan.

The Commission discussed item a) above and had no comment other than the Land Use Board should confirm that the stacking of lumber doesn't exceed that which was

specified in the resolution granting approval in 1996.

The Commission discussed item b) above and noted that the driveway is a large amount of the existing impervious coverage, which the applicant claims is a hardship. Mr. Grobert didn't find that it was much of an environmental impact. Mr. Teasdale noted that there is a stream on the property protected by an existing conservation easement but the proposed work is a significant distance from the easement. Ms. Ace suggested that the Environmental Commission recommend to the Land Use Board that the small increases "death by a thousand cuts" should be limited by a deed restriction. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding deed restrictions and putting the next owner on notice that a variance has been granted in the past and that future variances would be heavily scrutinized. In conclusion, the EC supports any process by the Land Use Board that puts owners on notice that future variances would be discouraged.

The Commission discussed item c) above in length. Ms. Ace agreed that affordable housing is necessary but should be in a location where there is infrastructure in place including public transportation. Ms. Ace noted that Tewksbury needs to comply with the Highlands Act because it is a component in water protection and that protection should be a priority. Mr. Teasdale read into the record some of the letter from the Citizens to Save Tewksbury. Mr. Teasdale believed that it should be the Environmental Commission's recommendation that the Highlands Land Use Ordinance and Wastewater Treatment Plan be completed as soon as possible. Mr. Teasdale opined that the Land Use Board has done everything it has been asked to do for Highlands Master Plan conformance to which Mr. Mackie agreed. It was the consensus of the Commission that Mr. Teasdale write a letter to the Township Committee recommending that the Township stay in full compliance with the Highlands Regional Master Plan. It was agreed to hold off commenting on the Wastewater Management Plan until more information is known about where it is in the process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie noted that the Board did not meet in the beginning of July but will meet on July 15, 2015 for the public hearings for the applications reviewed by the Commission tonight.

- Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts Eradication/ANJEC 2015 Grant

Mr. Teasdale noted that he has been in touch with the secretary of the Tewksbury Elementary School to coordinate a meeting with the Science teachers and the Principal to conduct a show and tell meeting with the students regarding the Water Chestnut removal. Mr. Teasdale noted that all is going as planned in terms of the deliverables for the grant.

- Community Well Test Dates

Mr. Teasdale noted that October 27th and 28th have been chosen as the return dates for the well test samples and Mr. Grobert and Mr. Connor would help on the collection dates.

Mr. Teasdale drafted a blurb to the Times of Tewksbury which has been reviewed and edited by Commission members and will be sent to the Times of Tewksbury tomorrow. He opined that August should have an article reminding the community about the program and outlining costs. Mr. Mackie agreed to send a blurb with the dates and costs to the Times of Tewksbury before the August 15, 2015 deadline.

Mr. Teasdale and Mr. Grobert noted that they are unable to make the August meeting.

- Emerald Ash Borer – see article from Mario Colitti

Mr. Teasdale encouraged Commission members to read the article and also noted that something is killing the oaks in the Hell Mountain Area and opined that it is a fungus that's been impacting the trees for about a year. He suggested Commission members keep an eye on the oaks throughout town.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Ace made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Mr. Mackie seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator