

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
March 9, 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 7:33 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

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

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 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

- January 12, 2015

The minutes of January 12, 2015 were approved by Mr. Mackie and seconded by Ms. Ace. All were in favor. Mr. Colitti abstained.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie reported on the Taylor application and noted that there was considerable debate about whether the design could be improved but in the end the vote was four (4) to three (3) to approve the application as submitted. He noted that because the conservation easement language didn't specifically exclude fencing the fencing that is within the conservation easement may remain.

Mr. Mackie spoke about the Weber lot line adjustment that was heard by the Land Use Board at their most recent meeting. The lot line adjustment provides Mr. Weber's lot with enough land to create the conforming front setback for his existing home. The vacant lot owned by Mr. Weber will likely be preserved by the Tewksbury Land Trust. He noted that there was a lot of

discussion about the narrowness of the driveway and the lack of parking for the public who may want to access the preserved land. Ultimately the Board voted in favor of the application as it creates another piece in the greenbelt puzzle linking the former Hill and Dale Farm property preserved by the NJ Conservation Foundation and the Hell Mountain Preserve owned by the Township. When asked the size of the lots, Mr. Mackie noted fifteen (15) and nine (9) acres.

Mr. Mackie noted that Cellco has again asked to postpone the next cell tower hearing until they get a response from PSE&G. He noted that one of the citizens groups in town sent comments to the NJDEP on the wetlands application submitted by Cellco.

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 January 30, 2015 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 14-13, Block 37, Lot 7 for impervious coverage variance.
- b) Information from ANJEC re: 2015 Open Space Stewardship Grant Programs.
- c) ANJEC Report – Winter 2015.
- d) Information from the NJ Conservation Foundation re: the 19th Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally, Friday, March 6, 2015.
- e) Upcoming training workshops from ANJEC.
- f) A letter dated February 6, 2015 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 15-02, Block 27, Lot 96 and 154.
- g) A letter dated February 28, 2015 from the Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission re: lecture on March 11, 2015.
- h) A letter dated February 12, 2015 from the NJDEP to Thomas Uzzo re: Highlands determination for Block 6.04, Lot 8.
- i) Notification from PS&S of a multi permit application to the NJDEP for various permits for vegetative maintenance, utility infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacement activities by JCP&L.
- j) A letter dated January 27, 2015 from Natural Systems Utilities re: Treatment Works Approval Application/NJPDES Permit No. NJ0104396 for the Crossroads at Oldwick Wastewater Treatment Facility, Fine Screen Installation.

Mr. Teasdale briefly spoke about item i) noting that Tewksbury will be receiving vegetative maintenance in the JCP&L easements. Mr. Mackie noted that there have been complaints in the past about how the vegetative management has been performed and he questioned if they have changed their procedures.

- 2015 Open Space Stewardship Grant for Pascale water chestnut herbicide treatment (item b above)

Mr. Teasdale noted that the Commission discussed applying for the grant in item b) above for the herbicide treatment of the Pascale and Whittemore ponds. He noted that he called Kerry Miller at ANJEC to inquire why the Commission's grant application was denied last year. She explained that Tewksbury had received a grant the year before and they had over 50 applications

and they needed to “spread the wealth”. She suggested that this year’s application engage the public more with signs, newsletters, etc. Mr. Teasdale noted that Mr. Landon encouraged the Commission to apply for the grant and so if the Commission is in favor he asked members to brainstorm about engaging the public. When asked by Mr. Ace if it is educating the public or engaging the public, Mr. Teasdale opined it would be more about educating the public. Ms. Ace noted that the first thing that comes to mind is the proximity of the school and engaging the school kids by taking them outside to the pond. Mr. Teasdale opined that involving the school children would have to be next year since it’s not likely that the funding would come through in time to involve them this year. When asked by Mr. Likus the amount of the grant, Mr. Teasdale noted that it is a maximum of \$1,500. When asked by Mr. Connor if the pond empties into the Hollow Brook and if the herbicide is a danger to drinking water, Mr. Teasdale noted that it is EPA approved and there are risks with any chemical in large doses. Mr. Colitti noted that the chemical in the herbicide is called Captan which is a plant based non-solvent herbicide approved by NJDEP and the Federal EPA. Mr. Teasdale suggested a sandwich Board at the site with information about what the Commission is doing and why and part two (2) of the video series. Mr. Teasdale noted that he would start writing the grant application and encouraged Commission members to contact with him with any other ideas or suggestions. Ms. Ace suggested attending the Harvest Festival with a show and tell type presentation.

Mr. Connor noted that he will be attending the ANJEC workshop noted in item e) above.

Mr. Colitti attended a Raritan Headwaters Association meeting on February 25, 2015 for river cleanup coordinators for the April 18, 2015 stream cleanup scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. He noted that he has placed an ad in the Tewksbury Times and will also forward it to Ms. Goodchild. Mr. Colitti explained that Raritan Headwaters breaks down the trash into categories, for example: plastic, Styrofoam, illegal dumping, medical and personal hygiene, etc. The Commission thanked Mr. Colitti for volunteering to be Tewksbury’s coordinator.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Grobert made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator