

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
September 14, 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 7:43 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

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

Absent: Bruce Mackie, Matt Grobert 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**

➤ July 13, 2015

The minutes of July 13, 2015 were approved by Mr. Connor and seconded by Ms. Ace. All were in favor. Mr. Colitti and Mr. Likus abstained.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- a) A letter dated September 3, 2015 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 15-10, Block 43, Lot 2.02, Impervious Coverage and Garage Variances.
- b) Raritan Headwaters Association 2015 Stream Cleanup Report.
- c) A copy of a thank you letter dated August 14, 2015 from Raritan Headwaters Assoc. re: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Stream Clean Up.
- d) Information regarding the Application for the 2015 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards.
- e) A copy of a letter dated July 20, 2015 from the NJ Conservation Foundation re: their application to SADC for a Planning Incentive Grant for farmland preservation of the Skalski farm, Block 42, Lots 9 & 27.

Mr. Teasdale spoke regarding item d) above and recommended completing the process of educating the Tewksbury Elementary School students on the Pascale Pond invasives; the project could be submitted next year for the 2016 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards.

Mr. Colitti spoke regarding items b) and c) above noting that 9.6 tons of trash and recyclables were removed by approximately 1,000 volunteers from a total of 40 sites. Forty-seven miles of rivers and surrounding lands adjacent to the Raritan Headwaters were part of the annual stream cleanup focus. Mr. Colitti suggested more outreach next year to attract more Tewksbury Township volunteers; 85% to 90% of the volunteers for the Tewksbury site were Califon, Lebanon and High Bridge residents. He noted information about the stream cleanup was placed on the township website. Mr. Colitti suggested placing an article in the Times of Tewksbury in March (February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline), Mr. Connor suggested contacting the Boy Scouts and other groups to get volunteers and Ms. Ace suggested contacting Voorhees High School as their students have a community service requirement.

With respect to item a) above, the Commission reviewed the application material and Land Use Board Engineer's report. Mr. Teasdale provided a brief history of the previously approved improvements for the property and noted that two (2) variances are being requested, an impervious coverage variance and a variance for the number of garages.

A discussion ensued regarding light pollution and the ability for the Land Use Board to mitigate the impacts. Other goals are to retain aesthetic beauty and open spaces and protect rural and scenic roads.

Mr. Teasdale opined that many goals of the Master Plan are not met by the proposed project. Mr. Likus opined that it was more about the magnitude of the project and he found the request to be excessive and against the spirit of the Master Plan. It was the consensus of the Commission that the request for an increase in impervious coverage is not warranted and approving the coverage variance would make a mockery of the township ordinances and Master Plan and sets a dangerous precedent.

Mr. Teasdale offered to prepare a letter to the Land Use Board that details the Commission's review. The Commission asked Mr. Teasdale to reference the Master Plan goals and objectives.

The Environmental Commission unanimously found the request inconsistent with the Master Plan and not a hardship.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Updates – Land Use Board

Due to Mr. Mackie's absence there was no Land Use Board update.

➤ Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts Eradication/ANJEC 2015 Grant

Mr. Teasdale explained that he has been in contact with a fourth and third grade teacher at the Tewksbury Elementary School to provide them with a demonstration on headwaters and invasive species which will lead to a discussion about water chestnuts at Pascale Pond. He noted that he will be delivering the lessons to both classrooms on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> which will include the video of the pond covered with the invasive, the removal process and the pond after the herbicide treatment to be followed by a hands on lesson at the pond.

➤ Community Well Test Program

An article will appear in the October Times of Tewksbury reminding residents about the well test dates. When asked if anyone can help with the collection dates, Mr. Colitti and Mr. Connor volunteered.

In light of the recent drought, Mr. Colitti questioned whether the Township has considered water restrictions noting that towns in Bergen, Sussex and Passaic Counties have passed water usage ordinances. He noted that the water levels in both Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs are very low.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Colitti made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Ms. Ace seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild  
Land Use Administrator