

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
May 9, 2016**

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 7:31 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chris Teasdale, Chairman, Bruce Mackie, Glenn Likus, Geoffrey Connor, Matt Grobert and Rodney McCatharn, Alt. #1.

Absent: Mary Ace and Mario Colitti

**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, 2016.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were approximately 13 members of the public. Mr. Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public. There being no one with questions, Mr. Teasdale closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts

Mr. Teasdale explained for members of the public the process that the Commission and Township has gone through to rid the pond of water chestnuts. The township treated the pond for two (2) years and decided to take a wait and see approach the third year. Mr. Teasdale reported that no growth has occurred this year but that it is still early and he will continue to keep a watchful eye on the ponds.

**ALISON JONES** – Slideshow and discussion regarding the ecology of the Raritan Bay and its headwaters

Mr. Connor introduced Alison Jones, who grew up in Mountainville and is an environmentalist interested in water and a noted photographer. Ms. Jones has traveled all over the world taking pictures of watersheds and in particular in areas where there are severe water shortages. He noted that Tewksbury's mandate is the Raritan River and Ms. Jones has offered to speak to the Commission and members of the public.

Ms. Jones presented a 30 minute slideshow on the Raritan River and its headwaters. The Raritan Watershed is completely within NJ and the Raritan Basin is about 1,100 square miles making it the largest drainage area in NJ (the mostly densely populated US State). The Raritan Basin drains 7 Counties in NJ (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Somerset and Union). She specifically noted that the Hudson Raritan Estuary that lies within the watershed has 150 species of fish and shellfish, 330 bird species and 15 million people. Ms. Jones provided the history of the Raritan and how it evolved; she spoke of how it was used for commerce and noted the flooding that has occurred over the years. Ms. Jones noted that drinking water from the Raritan supplies 1.2 million people. She went on to explain that the way people behave on the land impacts water quality. She spoke of the different points of pollution and how it impacts the waterway and the remedies. She stressed the need to keep impervious coverage low, get water back into the ground and keep the streams and rivers clean.

In conclusion, Ms. Jones encouraged partnering and teamwork between the private and public sectors.

The Commission thanked Ms. Jones for her presentation and she answered some questions from the audience about her travels, etc.

## **MINUTES**

➤ April 11, 2016

The minutes of April 11, 2016 were approved by motion of Mr. Connor and seconded by Mr. Teasdale. All were in favor. Mr. Mackie and Mr. Grobert abstained.

### Land Use Board Update

Mr. Mackie noted that the most recent variance the Board reviewed was for an eight (8) foot high fence in the front yard. The ordinance only allows four (4) foot high fences in the front yard unless it is a deer fence and the proposed fence did not meet the definition of a deer fence. The Board approved the variance request as the fence was barely visible from the roadway. Mr. Mackie also noted that the owner of the Tewksbury Inn has purchased a total of three (3) properties and he is looking to adjust the lot lines to possibly accommodate more parking in the Village of Oldwick and to alleviate an ingress and egress issue.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- a) A letter dated May 2, 2016 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 15-14, Lot Line Adjustment/Variance, Block 23, Lots 23.01 & 23.02.

Mr. Likus recused himself from the discussion.

Mr. Teasdale read into the record the proposal to adjust the lot lines between the two (2) above referenced lots and for ground mounted solar. He noted that adjusting the lot lines would eliminate an existing impervious coverage issue on one of the lots. Other than some soil disturbance to install the solar arrays, the Commission didn't feel that there were any environmental concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Mr. Likus seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild  
Land Use Administrator