

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
April 10, 2017**

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 7:48 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

Present: Chairman Chris Teasdale, Mario Colitti, Mary Ace, Bruce Mackie, Geoffrey Connor and Glenn Likus.

Absent: Matt Grobert and Michael Schlaefer, Alt #2.

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 10, 2017.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public.

Dawn Pogosaew, Tewksbury Woman's Club, was present to discuss the grant application she prepared on behalf of the Environmental Commission to ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions) for \$1,500 for a project entitled Pascale Farm Park Tewksbury Arboretum-Native Pollinator Garden. She explained that they are creating the garden where the old Pascale house was located. She went on to explain that they are trying to create an educational environment so the school system can utilize it for outdoor classes. Mr. Teasdale noted the Environmental Commission had a grant from ANJEC a few years ago and part of that grant was outreach with the students which involved a lesson with 3rd and 4th graders. Ms. Pogosaew noted that a wood duck box is being installed on the upper pond and there is also an Eagle Scout earning his Eagle Scout Award by working on a dock and a trail through the wetlands. She explained that 1,200 native plants will be planted in the meadow area. The Woman's Club has dedicated \$1,500 this year and \$1,500 next year for the project. When asked about the deer issue, Ms. Pogosaew explained that most of the plantings are deer resistant. She explained that next year they would like to begin work on the wetland area and Mr. Teasdale noted that there are deep restrictions in the wetlands. She explained that the area needs to be cleaned up but she can't do it so she's hoping to go through the Environmental Commission to get more grants for that cleanup. When asked what she meant by "cleanup", Ms. Pogosaew explained that there are a lot of invasives that need to be removed. She noted that the NJ Strike Team has agreed to oversee any application of chemicals to the invasives; they know what chemicals can be used in a wetland area. It

was the consensus of the Commission that activities in the wetlands are out of the Environmental Commission's jurisdiction. Ms. Pogosaew noted that there is also a grant for the remediation of wetlands through another organization; she would like to apply for that grant next year. Mr. Teasdale opined that the Environmental Commission would be happy to work together on a wetlands grant next year. Mr. Colitti echoed Mr. Teasdale's support.

Mr. Mackie asked to see a list of activities that are associated with each of the grants and cautioned Ms. Pogosaew to not bite off more than she can chew as the grant process can get very complicated. She noted that she anticipates the project to take at least ten (10) years.

Mr. Teasdale asked Ms. Pogosaew to clarify that she submitted the ANJEC grant with the Environmental Commission's name to which she responded in the positive. He asked that in the future the Environmental Commission be informed when a grant is submitted on their behalf so that if there are questions the Commission is not caught off guard. When asked by Mr. Connor if the Environmental Commission is being asked to support the ANJEC grant that was already submitted, Mr. Teasdale responded in the positive.

When asked by Ms. Ace how much publicity she has received for the garden area, Ms. Pogosaew explained that she wants to wait until the end of the summer once more has been done so it looks more impactful. Ms. Ace suggested an article in the Times of Tewksbury to encourage residents to plant native plants, etc. Ms. Pogosaew noted that eventually articles will appear in the Times of Tewksbury, Hunterdon Review and on the Township website.

Mr. Teasdale noted that in the past when preparing grants they have had to separate in-kind work from actual cost and asked if that was part of her grant to which Ms. Pogosaew responded in the positive. When asked what will happen if the \$1,500 ANJEC grant is not approved, Ms. Pogosaew explained that she will be asking for donations.

Mr. Teasdale made a motion to support the 2017 ANJEC grant as submitted on March 31, 2017 by Dawn Pogosaew on behalf of the Environmental Commission. Ms. Ace seconded the motion. All were in favor.

There being no one else in the audience, Mr. Teasdale closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

MINUTES

➤ March 13, 2017

Mr. Connor made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2017. Mr. Colitti seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Teasdale, Mr. Likus and Ms. Ace abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) A letter dated March 24, 2017 from ANJEC re: membership benefits.
- b) A letter dated April 6, 2017 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 16-14, Block 19, Lot 14.03.

Mr. Connor recused himself from the discussion regarding item b above. Mr. Likus read into the record the description of the application. Because all of the proposed improvements are interior and no disturbance or change to the footprint is proposed the Commission had no comment on the application.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie noted that the last Board meeting was the Lance hearing and they have finished their testimony and cross examination. The next meeting will be for closing arguments and the Board will discuss and render a decision.

It was noted that Cellco is looking at the steeple of the former church in Oldwick (now known as the Julian Gauge antique store) to site the cell antenna.

When asked about affordable housing, Mr. Mackie noted that the numbers have gone up because it has been determined that the “gap” period will now count.

➤ Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts

Mr. Teasdale noted that if Mr. Landon is leaving the Commission may need to do a little more work to secure funding to continue to treat the invasives.

➤ 2017 RHA Annual River Clean-up

Mr. Colitti noted that he will be out of the Country for the river cleanup but Mr. Teasdale has agreed to help with the event.

Ms. Ace announced that Tom Murphy passed away approximately 2 weeks ago at the age of 91. Ms. Ace noted that Mr. Murphy was ahead of the curve with GIS and was instrumental with getting Tewksbury involved in the municipal GIS program.

Mr. Colitti noted that there has been a sighting of a bobcat on Vernoy Road.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Ace made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Mr. Likus seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator