

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
April 9, 2018**

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 7:30 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

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

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 25, 2018.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Teasdale opened the meeting up to the public.

Debra Dillon was present to discuss the flooding issue at her property. Mr. Teasdale noted that the Commission would be discussing a draft letter in response to the correspondence they received later in the meeting. Mrs. Dillon opined that there is a general misunderstanding about the situation and noted that she would be happy to provide clarification.

There being no additional public participation, Mr. Teasdale closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

**MINUTES**

➤ March 12, 2018

Mr. Colitti made a motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2018. Mr. Connor seconded the motion. All were in favor. Ms. Ace and Mr. Likus abstained.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

1. Draft of the ANJEC Open Space Grant application (*hand delivered by Chairman Teasdale*)

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Discuss draft response to Dillon correspondence re: storm water issue

Mr. Teasdale reminded Commission members that they have reviewed documents from Mrs. Dillon and a report and mapping from the Township Engineer. He noted that the draft letter does not address changes in impervious coverage, etc. but speaks to the blockage as the water tries to traverse under Cold Brook Rd. and backs up on the Dillon property. Mr. Teasdale read into the record the draft letter he prepared. He suggested involving the Raritan Headwaters Assoc. to find out how a property owner can improve a stream corridor. He suggested putting a plan in place before approaching the landowner as the best course of action. Mrs. Dillon opined that there is a lot more to the problem than what was described. She explained that her consultants believe that there is too much water coming into her property from the north and the culvert is not sized appropriately to allow the water to exit; there is no physical blockage. Mrs. Kaufman opined that what was just described by Mrs. Dillon was completely different than the letter from her consultant. Mrs. Dillon opined that the Township Engineer had a very “wishy washy” response and may have been told what to say in his report. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the former pond and headwaters and surface water runoff. Discussion ensued regarding the ditches/trenches that were created on the ball fields behind the library and Mrs. Dillon opined that those ditches may have accelerated the stormwater she is receiving. She recounted a time when the library was closed so that they could reroute drainage. Mr. Teasdale opined that the rerouting of water from that area could have made a significant impact downstream and it would be worth looking into. Mr. Likus opined that the water drains towards the Cold Brook Preserve and drains behind the Taggart’s property however, if the ditches have changed the direction of flow it may have increased stormwater directed towards Mrs. Dillon’s property. Mrs. Dillon opined that there are simple solutions to the problem, for example detaining the water to allow it to seep into the ground gradually. Mr. Mackie suggested that the Commission encourage everyone to get together to discuss solutions. When asked by Mr. Teasdale if her concern is volume and not so much channelization of the water, Mrs. Dillon responded in the positive. Mrs. Dillon opined that the first step is for the Township to acknowledge that there is a problem, find the source and then the solution. When asked by Mr. Colitti if she has contacted DEP about the issue, Mrs. Dillon noted that they are fully aware of the issue and are happy that she is encouraging the Township to do the right thing. She noted that if the Township doesn’t enforce the regulations they will be “slapped” with violations which would involve fines. When asked by Ms. Ace what she feels is the “right thing”, Mrs. Dillon opined that the Township needs to create various zones for detention areas; one area by the orchard, one area by the cemetery and one area by the church parking lot. When asked if she is recommending that the Township build detention basins in those areas, Mrs. Dillon explained that traditional basins are big and ugly, but she suggested a newer approach of vegetative depression with a spillover at one end. Mrs. Kaufman pointed out that there is a big difference between retention and detention. She applauded Mrs. Dillon for all of the information presented to the Commission but expressed her concern that none of that was conveyed in her engineer’s letter. Mrs. Dillon disagreed and read into the record a portion of her engineer’s letter

that calls for ways to manage the stormwater and for the Township to implement a stormwater management plan. She added that her engineer recommended a grant that is available to communities to implement these types of stormwater management practices. When asked by Mr. Teasdale what she would like the Commission to do, Mrs. Dillon opined that the issue is something the Commission should embrace. Mr. Mackie disagreed with Mrs. Dillon and noted that the Township does have a stormwater management plan. Mrs. Dillon indicated that she was told that the Township does not have a stormwater management plan. She again outlined several changes that she felt contributed to the flooding, for example the change to the driveway to the irrigation fields, the repaving of the Zion Lutheran Church parking lot, the widening and repaving of the County roadway, the ditches on the Oldwick Park near the Melick Orchard, etc. Mr. Colitti noted that Tewksbury has had a stormwater management plan (Section 625) for many years and it was most recently revised in 2006. He noted the NJDEP regulations require compliance with the plan.

Mr. Mackie suggested that the letter outline the recommendations and suggest a meeting with the main players (Dillon's, professionals and Township Committee representatives). Mr. Teasdale offered to draft the letter and forward it to the Commission members for review.

The Commission thanked Mrs. Dillon for her presentation.

- Raritan Headwaters Association's (RHA) 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Stream Clean Up on **Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Mr. Colitti reminded everyone of the cleanup at the park and ride. He noted that he is expecting approximately 100 volunteers.

- 2018 ANJEC Grant

Mrs. Kaufman explained that she worked with Dawn Pogosaew to put the application together for benches, signage and invasive species management at Pascale Farm Park. She noted that she raised the points about invasive species management to show the commitment to the park. Mr. Teasdale made a motion to accept the 2018 ANJEC grant application that Mrs. Pogosaew and Mrs. Kaufman drafted. Ms. Ace seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie reported on the Mason application for two (2) riding rings. He noted that over the years the zoning requirements changed. He noted that the applicant's engineer did permeability tests on the riding rings and the results were essentially in the same range as the soils in the area. The variances were granted.

Mrs. Kaufman noted that the quarry has installed the silt fence requested.

Ms. Ace noted that she sent a letter to Mrs. Hone regarding Basil Hone on behalf of the Environmental Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Ms. Ace made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Connor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild  
Land Use Administrator