

**TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 14, 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 7:35 p.m., roll call taken and a quorum established.

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

Absent: Mary Ace, Mario Colitti 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, Vliettown Road, was present and informed the Commission that she and her engineer, RT Environmental met with the Township Engineer, two (2) members of the Department of Public Works, Deputy Mayor Voyce and Township Administrator Roberta Brassard. She opined that the Township's focus was still downstream however, the Township has agreed to look at both upstream and downstream conditions. The Township Engineer is going to focus his efforts downstream and RT Environmental is going to provide some Best Management Practices that could be implemented upstream. She felt that the Township Engineer should be familiar with Best Management Practices but wasn't clear if he is fully aware and has the desire to be more sensitive to upstream conditions. She noted that the Township Engineer will look into the easement below the culvert and opined that focusing downstream will only improve the water flow below the culvert. Mrs. Dillon was encouraged that the Department Public Work understands the change in conditions upstream. When asked by Mr. Teasdale if she has had any contact with the Raritan Headwaters Assoc., Mrs. Dillon noted that she spoke to Cindy Ehrenclou and Bill Kibbler and they were provided with copies of the report from RT Environmental however their concern is with water quality. Mr. Teasdale suggested having Raritan Headwaters Assoc. representatives provide the Township with some training about Best Management Practices. Discussion ensued regarding the drainage from the ballfields, Melick property and the Cold Brook Preserve. Mr. Likus noted that the farmers are heavily regulated by the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District, who frequently inspect.

Mrs. Dillon suggested the Commission or Township create a Stormwater Sub-committee to oversee Best Management Practices to ensure implementation. Mrs. Dillon questions who has been designated as the Stormwater Coordinator since Tewksbury Township is a Tier B municipality. She opined that the Township Engineer is not working for the good of the environment and hoped the Environmental Commission would be an advocate.

On a different subject, Mrs. Dillon brought to the Commission's attention the enormous amount of trash along Vlietown and Black River Roads; she believed it to be from contractors working in the area. She suggested that the Construction Official give out information about littering when issuing construction permits. She also reported on what she believes are painters pouring paint and turpentine into the storm drains. When asked if she has witnessed this activity, Mrs. Dillon responded that she can smell the fumes. Mr. Teasdale suggested that she contact the Township Administrator or Land Use Administrator to report the activity.

The Commission was in favor of having Raritan Headwaters Assoc. representatives attend a future meeting to educate members on Best Management Practices. Mr. Mackie was in favor of a Stormwater Sub-committee.

Mr. Likus opined that a significant part of the problem upstream might be the increased water from the ballfields and the fact that before the swales were put in water was directed across King Street and into the Cold Brook Preserve but it now flows underneath Route 517 towards Vlietown Road. Mrs. Dillon agreed that the most significant drainage is from the ballfields and the apple orchards. Mr. Likus opined that there are also issues downstream of the culvert.

In conclusion, Mr. Teasdale noted that the DPW will assess stormwater upstream and the Township Engineer will assess stormwater downstream. He thanked Mrs. Dillon for her information and he agreed to reach out to the Raritan Headwaters Association to discuss educating members on Best Management Practices. Mrs. Dillon offered to provide the Commission with any suggestions from RT Environmental.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) Notice dated April 30, 2018 from PK Environmental re: flood hazard area general permit by certification 1.
- b) Notice dated March 30, 2018 from PSE&G re: freshwater wetlands flood hazard area application for various spans of transmission ROW's in Central Regional Area (*previously e-mailed on 4-16-18*).
- c) A letter dated May 3, 2018 from Shana Goodchild re: Appl. No. 18-

04, setback and impervious coverage variances, Block 33, Lot 7.18.

The Commission discussed item a) above (Mr. Teasdale was recused from the discussion due to a conflict). Mr. Mackie noted that the NJDEP reviews and approves the permit. The Commission had no comment on the application.

Mr. Teasdale returned to the meeting at this time.

The Commission reviewed the application material for item c) above and there were no real concerns however the applicant should be made aware that each additional request will be scrutinized more severely.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Updates – Land Use Board

Mr. Mackie noted that there was no meeting and therefore he had no updates.

- Pascale Pond – Water Chestnuts

Nothing new to report.

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

The Dillon stormwater issue was discussed during public participation.

- Raritan Headwaters Association's (RHA) 28th Annual Stream Clean Up – report on results

Mr. Teasdale noted that a large amount of garbage and debris was collected and that the event was a success.

Mrs. Kaufman reported that Harold Wrede, Chairman of the Scenic Roads and Bridges Commission spoke at the most recent Township Committee meeting regarding the issue of downed and diseased Ash trees in the Township rights of way. Mrs. Kaufman noted that as the Chairman of the Parks Committee she can confirm that the Ash trees in the parks are in poor health and many are down throughout the parks. The Scenic Roads and Bridges Commission and the Parks Committee are jointly preparing a letter to the Township Committee and she asked if the Environmental Commission would be interested in joining. She opined that the Township will need to implement a plan to deal with the Ash trees, noting that Chester and Mendham have both taken action. When asked by Mr. Teasdale if the letter has been drafted, Mrs. Kaufman noted that Mr. Wrede was working on the draft. The consensus was that the Commission would discuss the issue at the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Likus made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Grobert seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shana L. Goodchild
Land Use Administrator