

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 2008; 7:30 PM
Pequannock Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room

Minutes

- A) Present: Joe, Tom N., Jim, Frank, Jen
- B) Approval of Last Meeting's (3/12/2008) Minutes
Tom N made a small correction to item L2: the stormwater management item is "swale" not "swell"
Approval (Tom N, Frank)
- C) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)
Upcoming activities
- 1) April 22: Cedar Crest Earth Day Presentation – need photos, ideas (see email).
Action: Tom N. to contact Park Rangers about information RE animals, plants.
 - 2) April 26: River cleanup
 - 3) May 3 Dialogic electronics pickup
 - 4) May 10 Household Haz waste pickup – start distributing fliers.
Action: Tom N. to contact April Plantamura 973 283-5604 at Trends, Antoinette for website, others
Action: Frank will email newspaper/other contact info to Tom N.
 - 5) May 30: ERI work to begin (pending grant award)
 - 6) Ongoing: ANJEC workshops (latest one was in Burlington – too far)
- D) Town Council Liaison Report (Joe)
- 1) Budget hearing 22nd – final adoption May 13th
 - 2) Sun safety program at PV park soon to be conducted by a college in PA
 - 3) Town received grant \$15K for clean communities – cleanups by scouts, etc.
 - 4) Village area sewers: Crew Engrs design proposal: municipal building, some of turnpike
 - 5) Ordinance for introduction: Open Space, changes for PV park fees, etc.
 - 6) Sonic algal bloom disruptor – town may lease for a season to try at PV park, other discouraging elements.
- E) Planning Board Liaison Report (Marty Absent; Joe)
- 1) Castle Project – final is done; Joe believes they went for Jeff Keller as a consultant on the plantings and a goose egg addling provision.
- F) Open Space Liaison Report (Frank)
- 1) List of open space properties – Steve Petrarcha is getting lot/block numbers – for Ross Kushner
Action: Frank to provide EC copy of open space lot/block numbers when available for Ross Kushner
 - 2) Frank provided cell tower site list with block/lots on it – for Ross Kushner
Action: Tom N to provide Ross Kushner copy of cell tower locations to Ross Kushner for ERI
 - 3) Next Mtg: April 14th
 - 4) Riverwalk tour – Frank did not see much litter. Worst spot is between jughandle and railroad.
Action: Sunday April 20 EC reconnaissance trip to identify parking and priority areas for cleanup;
contact Frank to confirm availability for 1pm meeting time
- G) Old Business
- 1) High School Environmental Club update (Jen)

- a) David Claves said he'd participate in river cleanup.
- b) Club is continuing to monitor electric usage at high school, start monitoring gas usage too.
- c) Club is starting paper recycling program at high school: spent \$500 on bins for all classrooms
- d) Club is planting flowers and trees
- e) Club is pursuing initiative "Take your bike to school" day.
- f) David invited EC to come to Club meetings – Frank interested in attending

Action: Jen to follow up with Dave on meeting schedule and forward to EC

2) Establishment of North Boulevard Elementary Enviro Club (Jen)

- a) Apparently some interested, motivated parents
- b) Establishment/Announcement of Club

Action: Jen will create a flier to distribute week of April 14

1. **announce establishment of club**
2. **announce upcoming EC events (cleanup, HHQ day), etc.**

3) Follow Up on Interest from Ho-Down (Jen)

- a) Discontinue this thread

4) Ditch/Flood Gate inspections (Tom A and Tom N)

- a) Tom A reports that badge machine at Parks&Rec is fixed, he has his
- b) Tom N recommends EC members get badges ASAP; also recommends against printing a "position" on the badge
- c) Next opportunity to inspect "blue lines" will be winter

5) PV Park water quality/clarity.

- a) Health Dept will be looking at this issue, which is important to correct
- b) Discussion of methods to discourage geese from using PV park: Tom N contact plants a perimeter of stiff reeds to discourage geese walking from grassy areas to water and trees to create a steep approach/take off angle for geese; Joe reported other ideas of dog walk, monofilament lines (over water in winter), fencing to keep out leaves (winter).

6) River Cleanup, April 26, 2008 (Frank)

- a) Notices have gone out. Scheduling problem with boy/cub scouts: games on Saturday and so requested a later time. Tom A and Frank will stay as long as possible.
- b) We need to designate priority areas: note other areas of concern are: West Parkway area, area around the jughandle, Train Station, behind A&P, behind Regency House (private area), under Jackson Crossroad Bridges. Not much right by the river, under route 23.
- c) Jen suggestion: use map to deploy volunteers to certain areas: maps to show location of areas
- d) Joe/Frank suggestion: we place cones/flags/stakes with area designations on them ("A" "B" etc) for both cleanup locations and parking spots. This could be correlated/shown on maps as well.

Action: Tom N to make a map for volunteers, can be used to send people to areas.

- e) EC members meet afternoon of April 20th to tour 1pm at Jughandle.
Action: EC members contact Frank to confirm their participation in this recon trip
- f) Joe got 50 water bottles from BJs, Walmart \$50 gift card for supplies, maresca's 100 contractor bags and pairs of gloves; Home Depot waiting for them; Lowes had to go thru corporate – too much red tape. Tom N suggested Purell.
Action: Joe to contact Target about items
- g) Trailers/Quad – someone from open space will donate quad/trailer to ride around and take to dumpster. Joe has a utility trailer he will bring.
- h) Jen: Carl Bauer has a tractor that he might be able to use to haul heavy stuff.
- i) Posting locations: Shoprite, Library, Town Hall message board, Fire House message boards.
- j) Walkie Talkies – Tom N has 2, Frank has 4, someone else has 2. First aid squad will be on call.
- k) Press there at 1:30pm

H) Action Items

- 1) Tom N - Contact Amy Helmer, the Community Resource Coordinator at Cedar Crest, about an Earth Day presentation by the Environmental

Commission on April 22 at 7:30PM at Cedar Crest for 45 minutes.

(Done)

- a) Done. Tom N sent a proposed outline of the presentation to EC, who gave positive feedback. Tom A took photos and provided them to Tom N (haven't viewed them yet). Tom N says we may be light on material regarding plants and animals of the wetlands and Mtside park areas.
- b) Tom N also spoke to Andrew Pruner (A/V person), who wants a copy of the slides beforehand

2) Tom N – Email Marty that EC suggests Jeff Keller be hired to monitor environmental concerns at the very sensitive Castle site. (Done)

- a) Per above, Joe believes this was incorporated

3) Tom N – Email Jen the clean-up check off list for High School students to use during river clean up (Done)

- a) Frank: doesn't think people will be able to juggle the list and pick up at same time. Tom N said typically there are teams of 2 that take turns: one picks up and other does checklist.

4) Tom N – Ask Shade Tree Commission about arborist. (Done)

- a) The shade tree commission hires an arborist when they need one and pays him about \$75.00 per hour; they try not to use the arborist unless they really need him. John Olin and other members of the commission do have training but not to the level of arborist.

5) Tom A – Check on ID's from Park and Recreation Department. (Done).

6) Tom A – Notify consultants about vote on ERI update work. (Done).

7) Tom A – Email Marty the Environmental Commission Site Plan Review Checklist so he can pass it on to the Planning Board. (Done but not in time for Marty to distribute before this meeting.)

8) Joe – Check and ask if the town's Water Department can check the water quality at PV Park. (Done. Yes, the Health Dept takes care of this).

9) Jen – One person from Ho-Down might be interested in joining the EC. Invite them to the next EC meeting. (No but Jen will invite another person.)

10) Frank – Make sure papers have info on river cleanup for publicity and articles with pictures after can be written on the clean-up. (Done).

11) Tom N, Tom A, Frank and Anita – Work on ANJEC grant application, due March 31. Special meeting on 3/19, 7:00PM at town hall to further work on ANJEC grant application. (Done by Tom A, Frank and Anita; Tom N signed)

I) Correspondence (M – Mail, E – Email)

1) M2008-031

- a) from Planning Board
- b) Date 3-17-2008
- c) Tiff's (old Triangle Hoffbrau)
- d) COMMENTS MADE – dumpster to be anchored and covered in event of flood; native plantings

2) M2008-032

- a) From – Township of Pequannock Planning Board
- b) Date – 3/17/08
- c) Subject – Van Vugt Block 3001/7&8, 140 Jacksonville: Amended Site and Flood.
- d) Action – Comments sought by April 21, 2008 Public Hearing
- e) NO COMMENT MADE

3) M2008-033

- a) From – North Blvd. Elementary School
- b) Date – 3/2008
- c) Subject – Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department for providing funding for two environmental shows by David Street Productions Company.
- d) Action – For Our Information
- e) Details – Tom A attended the first show for younger children with his son who is in Kindergarten. It was a lively show that taught the children some environmental issues and they had fun. I also heard very good reviews for the second show from my older son who is in third grade at North Blvd.

3) M2008-034

- a) From – Morris Land Conservancy
- b) Date – 2/2008
- c) Subject – Outdoor Issues newsletter
- d) Action – For our information only

4) M2008-035

- a) From – State of NJ DEP, Underground Storage Tanks
- b) Date – 3/17/2008
- c) Subject – Notice of Approval of Extension Request
- d) Action – For our information
- e) Details – Pompton Plains Service received extension request approval to May 30, 2008 for submission of the Notice of Deficiency Response.
No Comment Made

5) M2008-036

- a) From – State of NJ DEP, BCAIN – Initial Notice Section
- b) Date – 4/2/08
- c) Subject – Notice of Deficiency
- d) Action – For our information; no comment solicited
- e) Details – Chilton Hospital's submitted Remedial Investigation Report pursuant to the Underground Storage Tank regulations was deficient.

6) E2008-002

- a) From – Al Gilbert [algilbert@optonline.net]
- b) Date – Sun 4/6/2008 9:47 AM
- c) Subject – “I was checking out your website and have a question. In the photo gallery “Invasive Plants” there is a photo of a tree that is named a Norway spruce, see attached PDF from your website. The photo looks nothing like a conifer tree to me; it looks more like a deciduous. I’ve attached another PDF that may help you with you identification of trees or at least this one”.
- d) Action – A response to the email. Tom N. responded on Mon 4/7 that the tree is a Norway MAPLE and was incorrectly ref'd on the website; will correct caption, resubmit to Antoinette.

J) Calendar

- 1) No Date - Educate residents about pulling invasive plants from town wetlands.
- 2) No Date – ANJEC Road Show in town.
- 3) March 31, 2008 - Deadline – Apply for 2008 ANJEC grant. – ***Done***
- 4) May 30, 2008 – Or before, response from ANJEC on Grant Application
- 5) April 22, 2008 – Earth Day – Presentation at Cedar Crest, 7:30PM
- 6) April 26, 2008 – River Clean-up Day
- 7) May 3-4, 2008 – Dialogic Electronics Collection, Rt. 10
- 8) May 10, 2008, Household Hazardous Waste collection day in town.

K) New Business – Misc.

- 1) *Action: Joe will look into the previous owners and possible landuses of the land in this area.*
- 2) *Action: Jen will follow up with DEP contact to see if there is more information on the cancer cluster*

Notes taken by Tom N. Please contact Tom A. with any errors or omissions.