

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, February 11, 2009; 7:30 PM
Pequannock Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room

Minutes

- A) Call to Order
- B) Roll Call
(Tom N., Rudy, Philip, Christopher, Jen, Lisa, Joe)
- C) Public Comments
- D) Special Presentations
- E) Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes
1/14/2009 Approved
- F) Budget Report (Tom A.) – \$720 balance, \$280 being paid to ANJEC for membership renewal, no workshop plan.
- G) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)
 - 1) Tom N to submit ERI status report to ANJEC this weekend*
 - 2) Tom N is trying to pull together a unified set of comments for ERI (Ross rejected our previous submittal of 2 sets of comments.)*
 - 3) ANJEC request for a write-up about the Ho Down "game." Jim Iorio brought the "spinner wheel" and Tom N has a folder at home with questions, photos, etc. Tom will write something up and will take a photograph of the wheel.*
 - 4) Other items will be addressed below.*
- H) Town Council Liaison Report (Joe)
 - 1) Parks & Rec mtg, and council mtg last night. Big issue: PV park: dredge out sediment from diving area and swim lanes involves lowering lake 5-6 ft and install pump to pull deeper water from Woodland lake. Try not chlorinating, will put in aerators and oxygen monitor. Will hire a dam engineer to evaluate the berm – what would it cost to fix.*
 - 2) Omnipoint cell tower – Dave H met with them to look at other sites but they want upper end of town – private sites*
 - 3) EOM: Bobby Joe Murphy, D. Lonegan will be taking Slater's position.*
 - 4) Bike Path: had presentation from Jerry Roesner; they are moving along (had title searches), starting design phase 18-24 months, then construction. Need to develop an assessment for 99 yr lease from RR. 4.8 miles: Harrison/River Road down to Mt View train station – paved path, patrolled by county parks.*
 - 5) Passaic County will be doing a canal walk along other side of the river.*
- I) Planning Board Liaison Report (Philip)

1) Last undeveloped lot along the turnpike has been purchased (adjacent to Golden Panther Park)

J) Open Space Liaison Report (Rudy)

1) Rudy went to first meeting. Two houses left on North Pequannock; trying to negotiate one, the one with a junkyard is remaining. We just bought Perrone (executor of estate)

2) Oil separator by Woodland Lake / PV Park (behind Mohawk): now starting to leak out. Hubner is doing a title search to see if we ever had an easement. Maybe can leverage maintenance of separators. Last year Fred gave them a letter but they said there was no problem (obviously had not been viewed based on the cover of soil).

3) Chris: Regency has been dumping their yard waste for years?

K) Garbage Committee Report (Joe?) *No meeting was done.*

L) Business

1) Ditch/Flood Gate inspections. *Tentative Chris and Tom N.*

2) PV Park water quality/clarity.

3) ERI working copy review, emailed 1/10/2009 to EC members.

4) List 2008 accomplishments and 2009 goals.

5) ANJEC Alert, Highlands Act, "Notices of Intent", are we applying for a grant to do this work? *Yes, being pursued.*

6) New Member's email addresses? Rudy and Philip. *Still need Philip's.*

7) Do we want to send ANJEC our accomplishments for their 40 year celebration? Our Environmental Commission would be acknowledged at ANJEC's 40th Anniversary Party on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the New Jersey State Museum, and also in the ANJEC Report. *Working on Open Space tax was a big initiative (Robin Jim, Joe, Anita) promoted at ho down and got a lot of support; biggest thing. The plan for aquatic park (2004). Other things have been Open Space – River Walk, Bike Path, HO Downs,*

M) Action Items:

All:

1) Spread the word about our Household Hazardous Waste collection on 5/9. *Tom N to send notice to Star Ledger and Steve Janowski. Joe will get sign.*

2) Continue Stream inspections. *Tom N. and Chris L. may perform an inspection this weekend.*

3) Other presentations, ANJEC, Ross, Jeff Keller, etc.

4) Hike or presentation at Cedar Crest. *Tom N idea: hike with multiple parts: start at Mountainside Park, hike to the wetlands area near Cedar Crest; there, do a presentation combined with Cedar Crest residents, then return hike.*

5) River clean up 3/28? *Jen and Rudy are in charge of this.*

6) Review 1/10 working ERI document. *Tom A and Tom N have been focusing on this.*

7) Organize a Mountain Side Park hike. *See item four above.*

Tom Newman:

1) Get current stream inspection reports to Ross. *Will make pdfs and submit.*

2) April talk at Library.

3) List 2008 accomplishments to Council. *Not done yet.*

4) Call Jeff Keller about Cedar Crest inspection. *Done. Cedar Crest is complete and Jeff's job is done. He recommended in his August memo that the EC continue to monitor the area to look for certain signs of trouble.*

5) For the updated ERI, make a list of figure comments for Ross. *Done, now revising per Ross' request. Will meet with Ross to review.*

Joseph Jorgensen:

1) Who operates flood gates in town? *DPW*

Philip Dickenson:

Thomas Andrea:

1) Send updated ERI's History Section to Christopher for review.

Reviewed and sent to Ross but the Historic District Commission might be making changes/additions.

2) Renew membership to ANJEC.

Given to finance department on about 2/6/2009, they will be paying after Council approval.

3) Do website updates, from 1/14/2009 minutes.

None done.

4) Keep track of municipal energy audit.

No update

5) Produce or get historic home data for ERI

In progress trying to get the data from the county.

Jennifer Hardie:

1) Community Garden? *Heard back from ANJEC: Belmar had had one since 2000; biggest expense was land, pay fee to be a member to offset the cost; they also feature a green house; a lot of organizations contributed (Home Depot, etc.). First step is whether there is land available. Joe had asked about Copely field – he will continue to look into this. For deer protection, will need fencing. Jen to track down contact of a woman who owns a gardening store who may be interested in offering some expertise to get this going.*

2) Check with Denise on recycling in parks. *Not done – she will look for this. Joe saw a bill showing that Denise bought recycling cans with some of the grant money received.*

3) River Clean Up 3/28.- *Jen asked where would this be? Tom N said we could expand beyond areas done last time: area along Commerce Bank property, behind A&P, and also the North Pequannock Ave section.*

4) North Boulevard “Ho Down” April 4 – *still talking Home School Association squashed, now resurrecting it.*

5) North Boulevard “Read” program – *Jen is looking for volunteers. Tom N said.*

Lisa Martinus:

1) Community Garden? *Jen*

2) Look into Sustainable NJ points. *Looked at this – website not yet operational and hasn't heard back yet on application. There are levels that you go through – depending on how long you go. Program is brand new. Out of Rutgers, Walmart is the sponsor. PSEG and solar panels in schools. Nick contacted county about our programs. Dave Hollberg setting up joint committee town and school board to explore shared services. Maybe biggest item is the care of the fields, may also involve solar. Wants to do statewide program.*

Christopher Lotito:

1) Review updated ERI History Section. *Done*

Rudy Steinthal:

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

1) M2009-007

a) From – Earth Day Shirts

b) Date – 1/2009

c) Subject – “Be Green” Earth Day Shirts

d) Action – Interested in purchasing?

e) Details – \$6.95 each, shipping additional but reasonable

2) M2009-008

a) From – ANJEC

b) Date – 1/15/2009

c) Subject – Smart Growth Planning Assistance Grant Information

d) Action – FYI, we already have a grant in progress. *Already pursuing.*

e) Details – Up to \$20,000 matching funds to each town and EC

3) M2009-009

- a) From – The Land Conservancy of NJ
 - b) Date – 1/16/2009
 - c) Subject – Our “notice of intent to conform to Highlands”
 - d) Action – Interested? It is an offer to Mayor. *Forward to Dave.*
 - e) Details – A offer to help us, for a fee, with Highlands work.
- 4) M2009-010
- a) From – State of NJ DEP Division of Land Use Regulation
 - b) Date – 1/20/2009
 - c) Subject – Lot 8, Block 2007 permits
 - d) Action – FYI (*Honda Used car dealer?*) *No action until we get a notice of another LOI/permit.*
 - e) Details – Approval to perform grading and construct a septic system in a flood hazard area,
- 5) M2009-011
- a) From – State of NJ DEP Natural and Historic Resources
 - b) Date – 1/23/2009
 - c) Subject – Dam Safety Jurisdictional Determination
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – A proposed wall construction at Cedar Crest is not a dam but other approval may be needed. *It's not clear what the proposal is here.*
- 6) M2009-012
- a) From – Pequannock River Coalition
 - b) Date – 2/2009
 - c) Subject – The Pequannock Post
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – A newsletter put out by the Pequannock River Coalition
- 7) M2009-013
- a) From – NJ Conservation Foundation
 - b) Date – 1/2009 or 2/2009
 - c) Subject – Land Conservation Rally on 3/7/2009
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Information on including registration information
- 8) M2009-014
- a) *From Passaic River Coalition*
 - b) *Date: Jan 1 2009*
 - c) *Subject –Ground Water Protection Committee – GWPC Membership \$500*
 - d) *Action – for consideration*
 - e) *Details - \$500 to join. DECISION – cost is too steep.*
- O) General Calendar

- 1) No Date - Educate residents about pulling invasive plants from town wetlands.
 - 2) No Date – ANJEC Road Show in town.
- P) ERI Update Calendar and Requirements:

Aug. 1 through Sept. 30, 2008

EC delivers materials to consultant
Consultant gathers documents/data; begins to draft maps

Oct. 1 through Nov 15, 2008

Consultant delivers draft maps to EC for review and comment

Nov 16 through Jan. 31, 2009

Consultant meets with EC to review maps; drafts narrative sections

Feb. 1 through Feb. 28, 2009

Consultant delivers revised maps and draft narrative to EC
EC delivers comments to consultant
EC develops project update article for newspapers and website to publicize March EC meeting, at which EC will offer an overview of the draft ERI and discuss revisions for final draft; invites ANJEC

Mar. 1 through Mar. 31, 2009

Consultant attends EC meeting to discuss revisions for final draft

Apr. 1 through Apr. 30, 2009

Consultant delivers final draft to EC, meets to plan presentation to Planning Board
EC distributes final draft ERI to Planning Board with recommendation to adopt; helps to publicize adoption hearing; invites Council, ANJEC

May 1 through May 30, 2009

EC and consultant present ERI at Planning Board adoption hearing
Consultant delivers final paper, pdf and GIS versions of ERI to EC
EC distributes ERI copies; posts ERI on website; develops final press release article on ERI

Township and EC submit final report, documentation on expenditure of funds and in-kind services, and copies of all grant products to ANJEC (1 paper, 1 CD) to request reimbursement

PROGRESS REPORTS DUE AT ANJEC: Nov. 15, 2008, Feb. 15, 2009; May 15, 2009. If, with consent of ANJEC, project runs past May 31, 2009, reports continue to be due quarterly, thereafter.

Q) Adjournment *at 9:15PM*

Mission Statement

We represent the public and its long-term interests as local environmental advocates. We work towards these goals by: advising the town council and the planning and zoning boards about a wide range of environmental issues that affect the town; advocating for open-space preservation; keeping residents informed of environmental issues; promoting environmental education; and working with neighboring commissions and other organizations to meet these goals.