

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

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

Minutes

- A) Call to Order
- B) Roll Call
(Tom N., Rudy, Christopher, Tom A., Lisa, Joe)
- C) Public Comments
- D) Special Presentations
- E) Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes, *Rudy and Christopher*
10/14/2009

Budget Report (Tom A.) \$366.54 balance, we need to spend this balance soon. *FYI From Dave: Nothing should be paid before the service is rendered. Best way would be to issue a Purchase Order this year that will encumber the funds from this year's budget. As long as the payment is made before the end of next year, it's not a problem.*

F) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)

- 1) *A \$4100 check was sent from ANJEC to the town for reimbursement for their half of the cost of the ERI. Christopher mentioned that he is starting to see the Pequannock ERI come up on Internet searches.*
- 2) *Originally scheduled for 10/17 was rained out; got request from scouts to coordinate with them but did not hear from them until week of rescheduled date (11/6). Did arrange with Alison Afflito, due to soccer schedule, daylight available, and scouts' destination, the hike was limited to 2:30pm – 4pm. Scouts wanted to do blue trail ending with the scouts pavilion, and there were many scouts present. I ended up leading just the 8 people who had responded to my direct invitation the week before.*
- 3) *MT.SIDE PARK TRAILS: I got a call from Mr. Bob Jonas of the organization who has taken over maintenance of the trails from the township. He saw our ad for the 10/17 hike and called to ask what we thought are issues. I suggested that we need better; he said they have GPS'd the trails and will be putting together better maps. According to Tom A, Anita (former Park Ranger) had nearly completed GPS mapping. Tom A will check to see what the Rangers have. Tom N will contact Bob Jonas to if the Rangers have info to see if Bob can use it.*
- 4) *Alison Beshada: a brownie leader who is looking to do a "field trip" with a water theme; I forwarded some ideas (such as hikes, visiting the water wells,*

etc.) to her and am waiting for her to select one. In the meantime, Bill Pereira (DPW) said he'd be happy to help coordinate.

- 5) Soil Samples from Farm Road: Joe forwarded report by Dr. Kirk Barrett of Montclair State University; showed no "hits" of any of 11 metals (which are toxic when present in sufficient concentrations): Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper; Lead; Mercury; Nickel; Silver; Zinc.*
- 6) Still waiting for MCMUA to hear whether they will come back to Pequannock in Spring 09 for another HHW collection day (they have another interested township and are going through the process of getting the site approved; if that doesn't go through, they'll come back)*
- 7) Poll EC members about paying Jeff Keller for a hike in spring. Can we videotape? Results: contingent upon being able to record his presentations. Tom N will check to see if Jeff said that is ok..*
- 8) Blue line surveys will be starting up again soon. Rudy says, "Glens need to be checked". The DPW does the clean up's as fill in work over the winter. The Morris County Mosquito Commission may help de-slug water ways and ditches in town. Also DPW would help clean waterways.*
- 9) Town Calendar needs correction on Environmental Commission name, will send note to Town Manager.*

G) Town Council Liaison Report (Joe)

- 1) Town newsletter is coming back in January, the Council is budgeting for the newsletter.*
- 2) Website, big push. Christopher will email links that should be added to the Environmental Commission area.*
- 3) Morris County Recycling Award Ceremony: Fryer Truck Award. Cedar Crest got an award for their bio-diesel usage. They use old cooking oil that is processed to power their diesel vehicles. That might tie in with the Green Team, maybe bio-diesel could be used in town vehicles. Cedar Crest uses 500 gallons of cooking oil per month and converts that into 500 gallons of bio-diesel at a cost of one dollar per gallon.*
- 4) Green Team will be meeting on 11/12 at 7:30PM at Town Hall.*
- 5) Habit for Humanity outlet store in Mine Hill,
<http://www.morrishabitat.org/restore/> .*
- 6) Will not be moving our Highlands Planning area into the Highlands Conservation area.*
- 7) Some concerns about COAH, judge overruled a COAH decision, was not protection for a "Builder's Remedy Lawsuit". And Castle employees would add to our COAH obligations.*
- 8) Some COAH residents in the Glens stopped payments so hurting others.*
- 9) Garbage Committee visited Waste Management's plant in Newark. Impressed, they did an excellent job sorting out recyclables in a single stream. When in*

doubt on what plastic to recycle, put it in with the recyclables. Will be soliciting bids for our garbage and recyclables.

10) *Bike Path proceeding slowly.*

11) *Train guy contacted Dave and came before Council. Looking to put steam train museum in our area, not sure if proposal is genuine.*

12) *Washington Park maybe all purpose field next year.*

13) *We are cutting grass on Route 23 since state is not doing it.*

14) *Riverwalk will be a mulch trail. First part might be a walk from near Tiff's to the Regency House.*

15) *Joe will call John Olin, the Shade Tree Commission Chair, may get DPW to take down trees in some cases*

H) **Planning Board Liaison Report (Philip)**

Joe, "Nothing new".

I) **Open Space Liaison Report (Rudy)**

1) *Three houses demolished.*

2) *Closing on two more by end of year.*

3) *North Pequannock Avenue, talking about possible purchase next year of last house on that street.*

4) *Since our projects are going so well, County would like us to put in for bigger projects.*

5) *Pia Costa lake – Golden Panther Park link and/or other link to this property from town or bike path. Large parcel*

6) *Shotmeir property – similarly looking to see if township can acquire*

J) **Garbage Committee Report (Joe?)**

1) *Single stream recycling in Newark – everything in one (paper glass etc)*

2) *May consider going to a single collection for ALL recyclables*

3) *Likely to go out to bid – hopefully will at least keep rates the same*

K) **Business**

1) *ERI – Final step: get reimbursement from ANJEC. Done!*

2) *Ditch/Flood Gate inspections. Will be starting up in December.*

3) *Annual River Clean up set for 4/17/2010.*

4) *PV Park water quality/clarity. Waiting for engineer's report on brim.*

5) *Community Garden, status? Soil was sampled, see above. Fence is done, needs higher gate. Start a club to oversee – Joe will put an article in the paper.*

6) *Ho-Down. MCMUA's Peggy Jones, maybe be able borrow receptacles for events.*

L) **Action Items:**

All:

1) Continue Stream inspections on hold until cold weather. *Will startup in December.*

Tom Newman:

- 1) Coordinate with C. Lotito on write-up of inspection of "Washington Park / Lyman Ave ditch".
- 2) Continue to coordinate Oct/Nov Hike. *Done*
- 3) Spring 2010 Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off day. *Waiting on MCMUA decision.*
- 4) *Calendar: EC to be called Environmental Commission: Tom N to contact Dave about this.*

Joseph Jorgensen:

- 1) Get township staff for "Green Team" for "Sustainable NJ". Resolution from Council on Green Team. *The first meeting will be on 11/12. Passed resolution. Lisa gave Dave a handout. Meeting tomorrow night at Municipal Building. Will pick Chair and Secretary.*
- 2) Bring up with Council, litter at Route 23 turnaround/ crossing by Hess Station. *DPW cleaned up that area and the town is working with the County to get the littering sign moved to the beginning of the jug handle.*

Thomas Andrea:

- 1) Do website updates, from 1/14/2009 minutes. *None done.*
- 2) Keep track of municipal energy audit; the Contact is Ben Jackal with TRC Energy Services, (732) 855 2894. The town has sent information to Ben, I will contact Ben and see if he needs any thing additional from the town. *Materials from town still need to be submitted, resolution passed Council.*

Jennifer Hardie:

Lisa Martinus:

- 1) Sustainable NJ. *First meeting on 11/12.*

Christopher Lotito:

- 1) Polish final stream inspection reports for season, coordinate with Tom Newman.
- 2) *May join Shade Tree Commission. Shade Tree Commission: only has 2 people – what is happening? Joe says DPW is taking over the day-to-day; Joe is going to contact John Olin.*

Rudy Steinthal:

1) Coordinate 2010 clean-up. Email action items. *Letter to go out RE cleanup – letter for Mayor to sign in January; maybe get some donations.*

Philip Dickinson:

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

1) M2009-076

- a) From – The Entech Group: Energy, Environmental & Engineering Services
- b) Date – 10/19/2009
- c) Subject – Partner with the Environmental Commission to spread the message of the benefits of Solar Energy.
- d) Action – They called me too, can come to our meeting to discuss. *Maybe they want a booth at the Ho-Down*
- e) Details – Offering assistance in spreading benefits of solar energy.

2) M2009-077

- a) From – ANJEC to Jen Hardie
- b) Date – 10/30/2009
- c) Subject – Passaic River Basin information
- d) Action – FYI
- e) Details – Brochures, letter and CDROM on Passaic River Basin

3) M2009-078

- a) From – NJ DEP Bureau of Case Management
- b) Date – 11/1/2009
- c) Subject – Pio Costa Enterprises Landfill
- d) Action – FYI
- e) Details – The submitted Site Investigation reports submitted are good but a Revised Site Investigation Report must be submitted within 60 days.

4) M2009-079

- a) *From – Township of Pequannock*
- b) *Date – 9/24/2009*
- c) *Subject – Letters from Parks and Recreation thanking for participating in the Ho-Down.*
- d) *Action – FYI and one for Project PorchLight and Lisa will forward to them*

Details – From Parks and Recreation thanking for participating in the Ho-Down.

N) General Calendar

- 1) No Date - Educate residents about pulling invasive plants from town wetlands.
- 2) No Date – ANJEC Road Show in town.
- 3) Spring 2010 - Jeff Keller hike with presentation at Cedar Crest, Mountinside to Cedar Crest, presentation, then back. Can we video tape this hike? That would justify the cost if more could watch. Joe may have a friend that can do videotaping. *Note: Tom N had heard from Jeff on this on 9/11 – Jeff has no problem with the EC recording any part of the hike or presentation.*
- 4) *Tom N suggested that it would be a good thing if the Chair would rotate periodically between members, and that members should think about it. Rudy asked what the time commitment is and Tom N said it would vary depending on what initiatives there are as well as what's happening in town (more development would likely mean more work on that level.. He said that being secretary and chair is a good experience for members, but that anyone who is interested would need to be committed to it. Tom N also suggested that being Secretary is a good prep to being Chair.*

O) Adjournment

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.