

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, December 9, 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, Tom A., Lisa)
- C) Public Comments
- D) Special Presentations
- E) Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes, 11/11/2009 (*Christopher & Rudy*)
- F) Budget Report (Tom A.) \$351 balance. *Remaining balance is being put aside to pay for a spring 2010 hike with Jeff Keller.*
- G) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)
 - 1) *I had contacted Jeff Keller and he has no problem with us recording his dialog or presentation for future use. With that, I suggest that we get him a Purchase Order to conduct a hike for next year. Unless there is something else that we need this year, I'd suggest that we see if he'd agree to do the hike/presentation for \$366.54! Other potential purchases would be: additional barrels for recycling (township seems to be lacking based on what I see on soccer fields);*
 - 2) *I contacted Tom Burbridge, MCMUA: they will let me know if they will be coming to Pequannock for the HHW Collection day again in 2010.*
 - 3) *Stream inspections: sign up? Wait for January.*
 - 4) *I will draft a letter to the Mayor that will recount our accomplishments this year. Suggest that we list them now:*
 - a) *Stream Inspections (list all done in 2009)*
 - b) *River Cleanup (list date, maybe some stats – Rudy to provide?)*
 - c) *Hazardous Household Waste / EWaste collection (w/stats)*
 - d) *Earth Day In Pequannock presentation at Library*
 - e) *Completion of ERI report (matching funds awarded, several newspaper articles)*
 - f) *Successful Ho Down Booth: educated many people about recycling/energy conservation/ERI/flora/fauna, dispensed 100 reusable bags, 2 thermostats, up to 500 CFL bulbs (through coordinated effort with Project Porchlight). Stenciling of bags was a hit with the kids. Updated brochure library with materials from EPA.*

- g) *Coordinated Hike Mtside Park Nov 7 (delayed from Oct 17) – had 9 attendees; did not end up coordinating with scouts bcs there were too many!*
- h) *Initiated Sustainable New Jersey, created a Green Team and suggested Community Garden effort.*
- i) *Commented on various LOI, plans, etc. (should we itemize?)*
- j) *Responded to various citizen questions (should we itemize?)*
- k) *Processed 86 pieces of mail.*
- l) *Initiate municipal energy audit.*

5) *Goals for 2010!*

- a) *Look for grant money: ANJEC, GIS(ESRI), etc:*
- b) *Shed (already being pursued by Council)*

H) **Town Council Liaison Report (Joe)**

- 1) *Eagle scout will put in raised bed. A sawyer volunteered to provide his skill to cut board. Wood would be donated by landscaper.*
- 2) *3 hybrid cars will replace high-mileage vehicles.*

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

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

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

L) **Business**

- 1) *Ditch/Flood Gate inspections. Resume in January.*
- 2) *Annual River Clean up set for 4/17/2010. Email was sent, a new letter will go out when new mayor is approved. Will solicit for materials. May need ATV, wheelbarrows/carts. Maybe shirts/caps bright orange donated by Home Depot for participants. Dunkin Donuts hit up for coffee carton. Hit up Green Team members. Target RiverWalk area of North Pequannock.*
- 3) *PV Park water quality/clarity.*
- 4) *Community Garden, status? See Council report above.*
- 5) *Ho-Down. Game idea from ANJEC email.*

M) **Action Items:**

All:

- 1) **Continue Stream inspections on hold until cold weather.**

Tom Newman:

- 1) **Coordinate with C. Lotito on write-up of inspection of "Washington Park / Lyman Ave ditch". Not done yet.**
- 2) **Spring 2010 Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off day. Waiting for MCMUA decision if it will be in Pequannock.**
- 3) **Check if Jeff Keller will allow hike to be video taped. Done and yes.**

- 4) Send email that correct name "Environmental Commission" be used on town calendar. *Done and correct on new 2010 township calendar.*

Joseph Jorgensen:

- 1) Get township staff for "Green Team" for "Sustainable NJ". Resolution from Council on Green Team.
- 2) Bring up with Council, litter at Route 23 turnaround/ crossing by Hess Station.
- 3) Contact John Olin about Shade Tree Commission.

Thomas Andrea:

- 1) Do website updates, from 1/14/2009 minutes. Also update Environmental Commission Members' list.
I have access to the Environmental Commission's webpage and can make changes. I updated the Environmental Commission members information. I also checked our email address and it was not working, I had that fixed and email again works. I do not have any auto forwarding of email messages done but I will work on that and make web updates as time permits.
- 2) Keep track of municipal energy audit; the Contact is Ben Jackal with TRC Energy Services, (732) 855 2894. *Dave Hollberg has paper work to send in and will be doing that in the near future. He mentioned in other town he has heard that the audit did not produce anything really interesting, insulate attic and seal windows.*
- 3) Letter to Mayor and Council asking for reappointment to Environmental Commission, if desired.
- 4) Check if new group doing trail maintenance at Mountain Side Park is using GPS data taken by former township park ranger. *Tom A checked with Denise and she said they have the data. Tom N has the contact info for Bob Jonas of the NY NJ Trail Conference. Their website is <http://www.nynjtc.org/>.*

Jennifer Hardie:

- 1) Letter to Mayor and Council asking for reappointment to Environmental Commission, if desired.
- 2) *Send environmental links for website.*

Lisa Martinus:

- 1) Sustainable NJ. *Held meeting, half of folks showed up. Tentatively set up new date. New Item: get Green Team membership to Rudy for River Cleanup. Next meeting 1/21 but meeting date may be changing.*

Christopher Lotito:

- 1) Polish final stream inspection reports for season, coordinate with Tom Newman. *Waiting for Tom N.*
- 2) Submit via email good links for our webpage. *Done.*

Rudy Steinthal:

- 1) Coordinate 2010 clean-up. Email action items.

Philip Dickinson:

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

1) M2009-080

- a) From – Township of Pequannock Planning Board Land Development Review
- b) Date – 11/16/2009
- c) Subject – Cutillo Subivision
- d) Action – Comments sought
- e) Details – Plans to change a single home lot between West End Avenue and West Parkway to a two home lot. The entrance to the new home would be from West Parkway.
- f) *Commented “The Environmental Commission is concerned about development in the township’s flood hazard areas and wetland/sensitive environmental areas. Therefore we would oppose this development. OTHER COMMENTS: The elevation contours show that the “wetlands swale” on the property does not foster drainage away to the adjacent drainage ditch, which has an invert that is slightly higher than the drainage swale. This may result in stagnant water there. *We suggest that a conservation easement between the drainage ditch and swale be granted to the township. *The bridge must provide free passage along the wetlands drainage ditch. *Please ensure that the specified wetlands plantings are installed and checked prior to approval / CO [certificate of occupancy].*

2) M2009-081

- a) From – NJ DEP Division of Water Quality
- b) Date – 11/16/2009
- c) Subject – Notice about FY2010 Annual Fee Report and Assessment of fees for the NJ Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) is available online.
- d) Action – FYI

- e) Details – There will be a hearing and comments can be submitted.
- 3) M2009-082
- a) From – NJ DEP Bureau of Environmental Radiation
 - b) Date – 11/20/2009
 - c) Subject – January is Radon Action Month
 - d) Action – Encourage outreach at the local level, maybe we can put information on our website and do a poll question about radon.
 - e) Details – Can report our activities for national recognition.
- 4) M2009-083
- a) From – ANJEC
 - b) Date – 11/24/2009
 - c) Subject – Membership renewal
 - d) Action – Maybe we should renew in 2009 since we have money left in our account.
 - e) Details – Cost \$280 for seven members and workshop plan is an additional \$60.
- 5) M2009-084
- a) From – Pequannock River Coalition
 - b) Date – 11/24/2009
 - c) Subject – The Pequannock Post Newsletter
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Information from the Pequannock River Coalition
- 6) M2009-085
- a) From – ANJEC
 - b) Date – 11/30/2009
 - c) Subject – Upcoming Grant
 - d) Action – FYI, is there anything we want to do that we could use the money for?
 - e) Details – ANJEC will be mailing grant application packets to municipalities in mid-January. Maximum grant is \$20,000 but most will range between \$5,000 and \$10,000.
- 7) M2009-086
- a) From – NJ DEP Division of Land Use Regulation
 - b) Date – 12/1/2009
 - c) Subject – Rehabilitation of sidewalk on Newark Pompton Turnpike Bridge from Pequannock to Wayne.
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Large plans for Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit.

- O) General Calendar
 - 1) No Date - Educate residents about pulling invasive plants from town wetlands. *Maybe Jeff Keller can show us on Spring 2010 hike.*
 - 2) Spring 2010 - Jeff Keller hike with presentation at Cedar Crest, Mountainside to Cedar Crest, presentation, then back.
- P) 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.