

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, February 9, 2011; 7:30 PM  
Pequannock Town Hall  
Second Floor Conference Room

Minutes

- A) Call to Order 7:34pm
- B) Attendees:
  - 1) Members: *Tom Newman, Chair; Tom Andrea, Secretary; Philip Dickenson, Planning Board Liaison; Lisa Martinus; Nancy Towner; Melissa Florance-Lynch, Council Liaison*
  - 2) Public: *Christopher Lotito (former EC member, waiting for appointment as an alternate member); Cathy Winterfield, Council Person*
  - 3) Absents: *Rudy Steinthal, Open Space Liaison; Jeff Mauriello*
- C) Public Comments
- D) Special Presentations
  - Allison Petryk,  
NJ Watershed Ambassador Program  
Watershed Management Area (WMA) 3  
Passaic County Planning Department  
930 Riverview Drive Totowa, NJ 07512  
ambassador@passaiccountynj.org  
973-569-4055
  - Allison contacted the EC via email on 1/31/2011. She is interested in partnering with the EC on a this spring on a project such as a cleanup, an invasive species removal, a rain barrel workshop, and/or other public outreach such as a presentation to the High School Environmental Club and/or at town festivals. Allison also performs monitoring of streams and lakes and can train groups for that. Her term ends in mid-June. Her territory is WMA 3 which includes portions of Passaic, Morris, and Bergen Counties. Tom N requested training for the EC for the visual and biological stream inspections. Tom N to email Allison a location map showing the Cedar Crest area with invasive species. Tom A to get Street Fair contact and Ho-Down dates for Allison.*
- E) Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes - 1/12/2011 *Nancy motioned, Tom N seconded.*
- F) Budget Report (Tom A.) \$1,000 – *Tom A will put in for ANJEC Membership of 7 regular members.*
- G) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)

1) *Meeting Length Issue.* Nancy commented on the length of the last meeting and made some suggestions such as limiting individual's reports to some time limit, handling more through emails etc.

a) *According to Tom N.'s records, the last meeting started at 7:38, ended 10:18; at 2hrs 40 min, this was the longest meeting Tom N could recall.*

b) *Tom N's records show last 4 meetings ended at 9:55, 9:25, 8:15, 8:20, but 2-2.5 hrs is typical. Tom N commented that, as long as the meeting is productive, he thinks 2 hours is reasonable, though he acknowledged no one wants the meeting to last to 10pm.*

c) *Tom N noted that meeting length is determined by*

1. *Amount of material to cover / number of people present (varies)*

2. *How meeting is run. Tom N noted that he had considered running the meeting more in accordance with "Roberts Rules" but had decided that he believes it is more collegial to run the meetings in a less formal way. Tom N also suggested doing the "Letters Received" part of the meeting first, rather than last, since some of those require lengthy efforts to respond. The EC agreed to try this.*

2) *Morris County Canal: there was a meeting scheduled for 1/26/2011 (thanks to Frank Spizziri of Open Space for forwarding the info). Tom N. requested a volunteer to track activity on this No interest. Tom N to respond to email to ask that they include EC on their mailing list.*

3) *Support for Open Space Plan Update – Tom N submitted support letter on 1/13/2011 (unsigned), today emailed signed letter and delivered hard copy.*

4) *2011 Goals – see last meeting minutes and let Tom N know if any additional, or prioritization. We will not codify but we will work toward these goals.*

5) *Presenting accomplishments at Town Council Meetings. 2/1/2011 ANJEC email suggested presenting accomplishments at Council meetings as a form of public outreach. Normal updates are to be handled through the Council liaison, but special updates can be presented by the Chair or by EC members who are leading specific initiatives. Melissa indicated that the Council encourages and expects Committees/Commissions to present to the Town Council meetings, and that these presentations could be multiple times per year, and would not have to be done by the Chair.*

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

1) *Council looking at possibility of adding a Pump Station on Village Road as part of the sewerage project.*

2) *Council received a letter from the public requesting adding recycle bank rewards program.*

3) *Council adopted an ordinance that prohibits smoking at Pompton Plains Railroad station.*

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

1) *Planning Board is requesting comments on proposal for a 7-11 at the United gas station near A&P with a 7-11 (Planning Board is requesting comments on this) – can always send comments – due Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.- landscaping is a possible issue.. Phil said otherwise it looks good.*

J) **Open Space Liaison Report: At Rudy's request Tom A reporting.**

1) *Has not met since our last meeting, nothing new.*

K) **Business**

1) **"Blue Line" (Ditch/Flood Gate) inspections -**

a) *Problems Christopher saw in ditch near Greenview Park. Nothing done, snow on ground is prohibiting inspection.*

2) **Annual River Clean Up (Rudy updated Tom A via email) –**

a) *We have received checks from Shoprite (\$300 in store) and from Hudson City (do not know the amount -- the check is being held for Rudy in the township managers office).*

3) **Walkable Communities Workshop Program.** *Tom A. spoke to the Morris County on 2/8/2011. The document is still being reviewed by the County Engineering Department and they will check with Engineering on progress. Once out of Engineering a draft will be sent to Tom A and he will circulate it for comments from stakeholders in town.*

4) **Grants**

5) **TBSA Tour with Rich Phelan**

6) **Septics/Sewers**

a) **Educate town about septic maintenance and look at other towns ordinances on septic tank maintenance.**

b) **TBSA looking for input from town whether or not to expand capacity – town is reviewing.**

c) **NJ DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss Morris County's draft sewer service area map on February 9, 2011. The meeting will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Morris County Library Public Meeting Room, 30 East Hanover Ave., in the Whippany section of Hanover Township (Same night as our meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of February).** *Tom A attended the meeting, which provided the public with a chance to voice concerns about the County's Wastewater Management Plan. Some information told at beginning of the meeting: every 6 years the County needs to update their Wastewater Management Plans, more dense development needs sewers, sewers are avoided in sensitive areas, additional areas may be removed from planned sewer areas depending on capacity. Their website is <http://www.morrisplanning.org/wastewater.asp>. Tom A talked to our town Engineer, David Battaglia, who also attended the meeting and Tom A commented that David has a firm grasp of the town's wastewater*

*management issues. David worked with the County to produce Pequannock's wastewater management portion of the county plan.*

7) Ordinances or Resolutions

a) Municipal Well Head Protection Ordinance – *Tom A will look into bringing in someone to speak to Town Engineer, Water Department or Council about the benefits/redundancy of such an ordinance.*

b) *Septic Maintenance Ordinance (potential)*

8) Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) - Phase II Funding. David Battaglia will apply for funding - \$50,000 (not matching)

9) Possibility of Christopher taking recyclables from town to Best Buy in Riverdale to be recycled. *Christopher spoke to Best Buy management about recycling electronics up to not including 32" TVs, etc. Christopher will speak to Dave Hollberg about this and to Denise about a box at the town hall.*

10) Open Public Meetings Act: practices regarding email cc's, etc. *The consensus is as long as discussion of issues is not done or a decision is not made it is OK to disseminate information via email.*

11) *Can video from Mountainside Park hike be made available to put on channel 77? Peter Correale has offered to broadcast it on channel 77. Yes – about 60 minutes. Tom N to provide to Tom A for processing.*

12) *Write up stream inspection done with Tom N near Glens.*

L) Action Items:

All:

1) Stream inspections.

2) Website: *Compile list of websites and internet links to include. Give Tom A more information. Provide/add issues/information about underground tanks on our website.*

3) Ho Down:

Tom Newman:

1) Review Wastewater Management Plan. *Philip brought in documents he had but no specific wastewater management plan. See #34 on Page 9.*

2) Submit example of prior stream-inspection reports to Melissa and Nancy, cc others. *Done on 1/13/2011.*

3) Review stream-inspection reports completed since last submittal. When complete, submit the new reports to Council. *Completed edits on all Rudy submitted. Two remaining: Glens and Washington Park/Lyman Park.*

4) Make year-end summary of our accomplishments in 2010. *Submitted to Diane Rizzi on 1/25/2011. ACTION ITEM SEND TO MELISSA.*

5) Girl Scout trip to TBSA *Have not heard back from Bill Pereira.*

- 6) Draft list of 2011 goals. *Done 1/12/2011. Have not received any other suggestions.*
- 7) Follow-up: Suburban Trends article on Ho Down article. *Steve Janoski told me article appeared. I checked library copies and did not see it – Steve indicated would have gone in the week prior to 1/14/2011. Contacted raffle winners (whose photograph was submitted) and have not heard from them that they saw it either.*

Melissa Florance-Lynch:

- 1) Look into status of adding Alternate members to the EC with the Council.

Thomas Andrea:

- 1) Keep track of municipal energy audit; the Contact is Ben Jackal with TRC Energy Services, (732) 855 2894. RFP will await new township engineer.
- 2) Get township staff name for “Green Team” for “Sustainable NJ”. *For now Dave Hollberg is working with Green Team but latter when needed he will appoint a staff member.*
- 3) **Advertise Mayor’s River Cleanup on town website and channel 77.** *Tom A emailed information to Peter Correale and he put it on channel 77. Tom A emailed information to Sharon Brown (Health Dept) for town website’s homepage but Tom A has not seen it on the website’s homepage. Tom A put a link to a “pdf” file about the River Cleanup on the Environmental Commission’s homepage on the town website.*
- 4) **Advertise Mayor’s River Cleanup to North Boulevard School and maybe district wide.**  
*Tom A sent an email to the NBS Principal asking that our flyer be sent home with students, maybe on the back of a notice already going home. Board of Ed approves all fliers – then can be town-wide blast.*
- 5) **Laminate some copies of Mayor’s River Cleanup flyer.** *Tom A made 4 laminated copies of the flyer and they are in the Environmental Commission Mailbox.*
- 6) **Find out latest on Bike Path.** *Tom A talked to Morris County DOT and they said they were in the final design phase of the bike path. There are 8 local contamination issues they have to work out with the DEP but they are not insurmountable. They are or will be in talks with railroad involved. The easement or purchase of lands for the bike path from NYS&W. The crossing of the railroad near Mountain View with Norfolk Southern.*
- 7) **Call recycler who handles our recyclables in town and ask if electronics pickup possible.** *Tom A contacted Joe McNellis at Green Sky Industries,*

*which handles Pequannock's recyclables. Joe said Green Sky would not pick up electronics, but a "Class D" company might be willing to do this for free. Tom A checked websites of "Class D" companies <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/ucomplis.htm> and called NewTech Recycling, Inc., which responded that, except for computer drop off, fees were involved for recycling electronics.*

**8) Check with Dave Hollberg, do we use GIS software in town? No, the county does most of our GIS work.**

**Lisa Martinus:**

**1) Sustainable NJ.**

*a. Webinar on how to get points better 2/10/2011.*

*b. Sparta meeting upcoming*

*c. Green Fleet inventory – will be 1 year of info come April*

*d. Landuse Pledge in process – going to Dave and to Council*

*e. Energy Audit progressing*

*f. Green Sky Education – talking about recycling in schools.*

*g. Expect within 6 months get to next level*

*h. April 13<sup>th</sup> Library Event – in association with Suburban Women's Club*

**2) Advertise Mayor's River Cleanup to Hillview and Gerace Schools and maybe district wide.- email blast Lisa will get approved by BOE, UPDATE North Boulevard Principal sent flyer to Superintendent of Schools and requested that flyer be emailed district wide on 3/25 .**

**Rudy Steinthal:**

**1) Continue Stream Inspections. Updated "Streams from South of Jefferson Street to Alexander Avenue West of Railroad Track" and "Drainage ditch parallel to and south of Newark/Pompton Turnpike near Golden Panther Park."**

**Philip Dickinson:**

**1) Get copy of Master Plan for Tom N., who wants to see Wastewater Management Plan. Brought in all he had but no specific wastewater management plan.**

**Jeff Mauriello:**

**1) Go on stream inspections.**

**2) Working on ERI with GIS skills.**

**Nancy Towner:**

- 1) Look into artificial turf sports fields, for example Christopher mention BPA leach. Find Pros and Cons on artificial turf fields. *Done*
- 2) Get ideas on outreach and contacts from FDU for Lisa. Transition to green careers. *Done*
- 3) Contact Dave Clays the advisor for the High School Environmental Club, artificial turf and River Cleanup. *Had good conversation with Dave, who wants to get them involved in the River Cleanup.*
- 4) *Update ANJEC website with our accomplishments.*

M) Correspondence ( M – Mail, E – Email) (started about 8:16

1) M2011-004

- a) From – ANJEC
- b) Date – 1/2011
- c) Subject – 2011 Grant Application
- d) Action – Open Space Advisory Board will be applying for grant
- e) Details – Sustainable Land Use application due 3/31/2011

2) M2011-005

- a) From – The Pequannock River Coalition
- b) Date – 2/2011
- c) Subject – The Pequannock Post (newsletter)
- d) Action – FYI
- e) Details – The year and review and various activities

3) M2011-006

- a) From – The Pequannock Planning Board
- b) Date – 1/11/2011 (was not in our mailbox on 1/12/2011)
- c) Subject – Walid Suiafan – Seven Eleven
- d) Action – Comments sought by 1/31/2011, needs to wait for our February meeting.
- e) Details – We cannot comment by 1/31 but may make comments after discussing at our February Meeting.
- f) Comments:

*1. The EC generally opposes any development in the flood zone. Since this development is on a previously developed site, we would ask that the development at least improve on the existing site in terms of percent imperviousness, indigenous landscaping, controls for oil spills from automobiles (such as “stormceptor” featuring an oil absorption sock*

*<http://www.stormceptor.com/en/products/index.html> ).*

*2. Request plantings are selected as native, drought resistant species that will require a minimum of watering. Request owner explores*

*possibility of using a rain garden of plantings in the stormwater detention area.*

*3. Please address littering issues with sufficient trash receptacles AND recycling receptacles. We request that recyclables be handled as such (not disposed of with trash). Also see above comment RE stormceptors to collect trash in special storm catch basins.*

N) General Calendar

April 2, 2011 - Annual River Clean Up

O) Adjournment 9:44PM

## 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.