

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, May 11, 2011; 7:30 PM
Pequannock Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room

Minutes

- A) Call to Order: 7:33pm
- B) Roll Call
 - 1) Members (Present/Absent):
 - a) Chair: Tom Newman *Present*
 - b) Secretary: Tom Andrea *Present*
 - c) Open Space Liaison: Rudy Steinthal *Absent*
 - d) Planning Board Liaison: Philip Dickenson *Present*
 - e) Lisa Martinus *Present*
 - f) Jeff Mauriello *Present*
 - g) Nancy Towner *Absent*
 - h) Alternate Members #1: Christopher Lotito *Present*
 - i) Alternate Members #2: Ron Baran *Present*
 - j) Council Liaison: Melissa Florance-Lynch *Present*
- C) Public Comments (list those in attendance)
- D) Special Presentations
- E) Approval of Meeting Minutes - 4/13/2011 – *General Calendar – clarify that the Sunday May 15 event with Allison Petryk is for Stream Monitoring Training/Demo. Tom N moves to approve, Christopher approves.*
- F) Correspondence (M – Mail, E – Email)
 - 1) M2011-012
 - a) From – Pequannock River Coalition
 - b) Date – April 2011
 - c) Subject – Newsletter
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – PRC position on dredging and feeder dams: “dredging is harmful to aquatic life and does not improve flooding; the feeder dams need to go.”
 - f) *Discussion: EC believes that dredging does not reduce flooding but in some cases can help keep the river to its existing course, as shoals can over time redirect the river’s channel. The EC noted that the PRC article does not specify what about the dredging is harmful – could be suspended solids and/or toxics in the solids.*
 - 2) M2011-013

- a) From – ANJEC
 - b) Date – 4/8/2011
 - c) Subject – Two copies of two Resource Papers
 - d) Action – For distributions
 - e) Details – The two resource papers are “Municipal Environmental Commissions in NJ” and “Site Plan and Subdivision Review: Environmental Analysis”.
 - f) *Discussion: Tom N recommends any EC member who has not received training on these topics should read the pamphlets.*
- 3) M2011-014
- a) From – North Boulevard Elementary School
 - b) Date – 4/5/11
 - c) Subject – Students Birthday Money Donation
 - d) Action – Thank you letter should be sent.
 - e) Details – An \$18 donation to the Pequannock Environmental Commission from money raised from students donations to a local organization on their birthday.
 - f) *Discussion: Tom N will write the note and suggested that the EC apply the donation toward something to give back to the school or community (perhaps a rain barrel). Other ideas mentioned: work this into EC public outreach, possibly in conjunction with Tom Ferraro of Solar & More.*
- 4) M2011-015
- a) From – Malick & Scherer, P.C.
 - b) Date – 4/26/11
 - c) Subject – Freshwater Wetlands General Permit and Individual Flood Hazard Area Permit Application by JCP&L
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Work JCP&L will be doing in Riverdale involving installation of four utility poles.
- 5) M2011-016
- a) From – Progressive Business Publications
 - b) Date – 4/28/11
 - c) Subject – Subscription offer for a newsletter
 - d) Action – Solicitation
 - e) Details – Free issue enclosed in letter and cost information will follow.
 - f) Discussion – declined – no need.
- 6) M2011-017
- a) From – Pequannock Board of Adjustment.
 - b) Date – 5/10/2011

- c) Subject – Owner of Rental Establishment on Route 23 North just prior to Aquatic Park. Request for waivers to allow an existing use (outdoor storage of equipment)
- d) Action – EC to comment and return to Pequannock Board of Adjustment.
- e) EC Comment: “The EC sees no reason to grant the requested waivers. Existing operations do not constitute a reason for exemption.” Signed by Tom N.

G) Budget Report (Tom A.) \$470 (*ANJEC additional members \$510-\$40=\$470*)

H) Chairperson’s Report (Tom N.)

1) *Follow-up: did the Mayor sign/submit “Certificate of Participation” to Jordan Roosma? NO – it was in the EC mailbox. Tom N will send the mailing address (done) to Jay Delaney to mail the certificate.*

2) *Follow-up: Jeff M.’s question about right to cut down trees. Tom A will look into this. Phil thought there may be a 25ft from center of road.*

3) *Follow-up: Training for Stream Monitoring, Sunday May 15th, 1-3pm:*

a) *Need head count from PEC:*

1. *Yes: Tom N., Tom A., Jeff M (yes), Phil D., Lisa M.,*

2. *Maybe: Melissa F.L.*

3. *No: Ron B., Christopher D.*

4. *Need to ask: Nancy T., Rudy S.*

b) *Invitation also open to Green Team, and David Clayes (high school environmental club chair) (Tom N OK’d)*

c) *Meet at Senior Center, will then deploy to a stream. Need a spot where picnic tables are nearby (I thought PV park would be good with Meyers Brook nearby, also maybe one of the Glens streams if there are picnic tables there, or possibly Greenview).*

d) *Need a pair of waders – does anyone have?*

4) *Rain Barrel Workshop in June (by Allison Petryk):*

a) *Cost would be \$45 to purchase “kit” with black 55-gal barrel, screen, spigot, fittings; needs to be assembled during the workshop, which will also have a powerpoint presentation of how these work.*

b) *Interest? If there’s interest, Allison will do it but we need a spot and some lead time. Phil, Christopher, Ron, Lisa, Jeff, Melissa, Tom N, Tom A (maybe), Nancy (yes). Advertise on Ch. 77?*

c) *Jeff M. mentioned possible application at the community garden (but we’d need a collector roof for that location) and possibly advertise at garden centers (at least, centers that do not sell rain barrels!)*

5) *Artificial Turf Investigation – now that this passed, we should take a closer look and at least let Phil D. know of potential issues for the Planning Board to*

consider. Jeff did a class project and has a paper he may present to the Planning Board.

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

- 1) *Town Rating of 7: will get a 15% discount off flood insurance premium (a good number for discount).*
- 2) *22 properties were identified for buyouts – meeting held last week; out of 22, 18 showed up at meeting – consent forms are due soon.*
- 3) *Sign for Town Hall – some movement*
- 4) *Cathy Winterfield and Melissa want to reach out to EC, Green Team, Flood, for a big, joint meeting, P&R, Shade Tree.*

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

- 1) *Oak Farms went out of business. Outdoor furniture company wants to move in.*
- 2) *Habitat For Humanity – Eleanor Bogart donated one lot to Habitat for Humanity to redo an old house – PB extended the deed.*
- 3) *Platt flag lot on Mountain Ave. Not resolved yet.*
- 4) *Saturn Dealer will be a Goodwill store.*
- 5) *Midas sold. May become a Pep Boys?*

K) **Open Space Liaison Report (Rudy, Tom A in place of Rudy)**

- 1) *FEMA application for 22 homes is in good shape. Will get answer within months. Town would have to knock down the houses. Would there be a way to recover/auction any materials from the homes?*
- 2) *A member of Open Space Committee will look at pedestrian crossing to Aquatic Park.*
- 3) *DEP de-snagging money for river may be available.*

L) **Business**

- 1) **Ditch/Flood Gate inspections -**
 - a) **Problems Christopher saw in ditch near Greenview Park – need someone to document.**
- 2) **Follow-up: Annual River Clean Up (Rudy) –**
 - a) **Statistics from River Clean Up: (based on Rudy/s 4/14 email)**
 1. **Participants: ~110 people (99 registered)**
 2. **Volumes:**
 - a. **Lyman’s Park: XX cubic yards based on 2 full Dumpsters, each 20? cubic yards**
 - b. **Aquatic Park: XX cubic yards based on 1x 20? Cubic yard Dumpster, ~65% full**
 3. **Weights: not available.**
 4. **Alexander Ave: common items were: KFC, airplane liquor, general fast food items.**
 - b) **Additional suggestions for next year:**

1. Ask volunteers to include ages of participants when pre-registering.
 2. Make pre-assignments based on ages and number of volunteers. (to be issued at check-in)
 3. Assign Group leaders (commission members, open space members and/or town council members)
 4. Assign team leaders (teams to be 10 members + or -).
 5. A group leader may also be a team leader. Group leaders will be used in areas that require more than one team (ex Lyman's Park). In areas that require only one team, the group and team leader will be the same
 6. At check-in have three check-in positions (A- H, I-P and Q-Z). Assignments will be given at check in based on the pre-assignment list.
 7. Maps and instructions will be issued to Group and Team leaders.
 8. Sampling (as was done the first year) or at least ad hoc observations of “bad actor” items that account for a significant portion of the total (i.e., report if “Joe’s Pizza” boxes/cups represent a noticeable portion of the trash, and then follow up with that establishment to see whether they have sufficient receptacles and whether anything can be done – perhaps contact them for volunteers for the cleanup!)
- c) Materials donated by businesses or purchased for cleanup
1. Shoprite Gift Card: Rudy purchased 10 boxes of trash bags
 2. Leftover Water Bottles: Rudy suggested and Tom N. approved giving these to flood victims
 3. Target Gift Card: we do not yet know face value.
- Note: Ron Baran says Dave Battaglia now has a crew assigned to keeping the parks clear of vegetative waste, ie. fallen branches..
- 3) PV Park water quality/clarity –
 - a) *Note PV Park will be free for first 2 weeks.*
 - 4) Ho-Down
 - a) *Our booth is reserved with Parks and Recreation.*
 - 5) Walkable Communities Workshop Program
 - a) Tom A is looking for comments!
 - 6) Grants
 - 7) TBSA Tour with Rich Phelan
 - a) Saturday May 14th.
 - 8) Septic Tanks/Sewers

- a) Educate town about maintenance and look at other towns ordinances on septic tank maintenance.
- 9) Ordinances or Resolutions
 - a) Municipal Well Head Protection Ordinance – *Sent an email to Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority requesting someone to describe the Ordinance before the Council and address their concerns.*
- 10) Environmental Activity for Janice Greco's Girl Scouts, maybe a booth at the Ho-Down along Green Way.

M) Action Items:

All:

- 1) Stream inspections. Training Sunday May 15th.
- 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.*
 - a) Links: how to dispose of stuff, like CFLs
 - b) Recycle.org
 - c) Historicaerials.com
- 3) Ho Down:
 - a) Need themes: how to get rid of stuff – must have a game. Recycling oriented game.
 - b) Raffle prize? Something made of recycled plastic?

Tom Newman:

- 1) Review stream-inspection reports completed since last submittal. When complete, submit the new reports to Council. Ongoing – working toward summer completion/presentation to Planning Board.
- 2) Make presentation to Council on our year-end summary of our accomplishments in 2010 and 2011 goals. May be regular or workshop; coordinate if a presentation is planned so that it can be put on agenda.
- 3) Get Tom Andrea Mountainside remaining Nature Walk with Jeff Keller videos. (use “slingshot”)
- 4) Write thank you letter to NBS HAS for birthday money donation.
- 5) Follow up on sending River Cleanup Certificate of Participation to Jordan Roosma by sending his mailing address to Jay Delaney so that the certificate can be mailed. (Tom N emailed address to Jay Delaney during meeting, later received confirmation that it was received.)

Melissa Florance-Lynch:

Thomas Andrea:

- 1) Email Melissa February and March Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes. *Done*
- 2) Email Ron the Walkable Communities Report for Pequannock. *Done*
- 3) Download and try editing Nature Walk with Jeff Keller video and continue for all videos when received from T. Newman.
- 4) Do stream report for Glens area walked with Tom Newman:
http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=470637 .
- 5) *Contact NBS RE whether a rain barrel or other gift from the EC would be acceptable.*

Lisa Martinus:

- 1) Sustainable NJ. Trying to find out if resolution was ever passed in Fall 2009 to get points (minutes do not have anything.) May need to review audio tapes.

Rudy Steinthal:

- 1) Continue Stream Inspections. Coordinate with Jeff M.
- 2) Provide size of Dumpsters to Tom N to document River Cleanup results for 2011.

Philip Dickinson:

1. Review Artificial turf paper from Jeff M.

Jeff Mauriello:

2. Artificial turf paper – send to EC.

Nancy Towner:

1. Work with Jeff and Tom N on artificial turf issues in anticipation of presentation to Planning Board.

Ron Baran:

- 1) Keep track of municipal energy audit; Donnely (contractor) will do first phase of work (change bulbs)

Christopher Lotito:

Replacement of small electronics collection bin in vestibule of Muni Building for him to take items to Best Buy.

N) General Calendar

May 14, 2011 – TBSA Tour in Fairfield at TBSA 9AM

May 15, 2011 – Stream-inspection training 1PM Senior House

September 17, 2011 – Ho-Down, setup 8AM start 12PM end 7PM

Rain date next day September 18, 2011

O) Adjournment 9:52pm

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.