

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011; 7:30 PM  
Pequannock Town Hall  
Second Floor Conference Room

Agenda

- A) Call to Order 7:34 pm
- B) Roll Call
  - 1) Members (Present/Absent):
    - a) Chair: Tom Newman Present
    - b) Secretary: Tom Andrea Absent
    - c) Open Space Liaison: Rudy Steinthal Present
    - d) Planning Board Liaison: Philip Dickenson Present
    - e) Lisa Martinus Present
    - f) Jeff Mauriello Present
    - g) Nancy Towner Absent
    - h) Alternate Member #1: Christopher Lotito 8:34pm
    - i) Alternate Member #2: Ron Baran Present
    - j) Council Liaison: Melissa Florance-Lynch Present
- C) Public Comments (list those in attendance) *none*
- D) Special Presentations *none*
- E) Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2011 – *Rudy moved to accept and Phil seconded.*
- F) Correspondence ( M – Mail, E – Email)
  - 1) M2011-022
    - a) From – Pequannock Township Board of Adjustment
    - b) Date – 5/10/2011
    - c) Subject – Proposed building at 441 Newark Pompton Turnpike
    - d) Details – A two-story building and one-story garage is being proposed for construction near the intersection of Alexander Ave and Newark Pompton Turnpike.
    - e) Action – Comments sought
    - f) Discussion: *question of whether there are any contamination issues on the site due to previous activities, such as a buried fuel tanks, spills, etc. Also the applicant is requesting a variance for impervious coverage, which would be 70% impervious when 40% is the current limit.*
    - g) Comments as submitted: *The Environmental Commission (EC) is concerned about the proliferation of commercial development in residential areas rather than in areas already designated for commercial / mixed uses, particularly in light of the bulk variance requests to impinge on adjacent residential areas. Furthermore, the EC has additional concerns about the request for a variance regarding impervious coverage and the implications for flash flooding. The EC would request a drainage analysis and plan that (1) avoids draining runoff to adjacent residential properties and (2) ensures that existing stormwater facilities along the Turnpike are sufficient to handle the runoff that would be generated per inch of rainfall for a 5-year storm. Finally, the EC is concerned about possible contamination at the site due to the previous activities there, which include septic hauling and possibly onsite fueling/ maintenance of motor vehicles. Signed Thomas Newman, P.E., Chair, Environmental Commission*

h) North Blvd school \$25 – ideas to give back to school – Rain Barrels wont work, will need Tom A to ask about what they could use. Ideas include DVD, science device to demonstrate solar energy, etc.

2) M2011-023

- a) From – Rimbach Publishing Company
- b) Date – June/July 2011
- c) Subject – Pollution Equipment News
- d) Details – Magazine with articles and equipment for sale.
- e) Action – FYI

3) E2011-001

- a) From – Mary Jane Lombardi, President, Pompton Plains Suburban Woman's Club
- b) Date – July 11, 2011
- c) Subject – Rain Barrel for Community Garden
- d) Details – They would like a rain barrel at Firehouse #1 that could be used to water their adjacent Community Garden on Jackson Avenue.
- e) Action – Response requested
- f) Discussion: *Ron Baran contacted Allison Petryk who referred him to Pat Rector of Rutgers University, who can conduct a workshop and provide barrels for \$60. Action Item: Tom N to respond to her Mary Jane that she should ask Dave Hollberg in lieu of the Fire House. If the Fire House is amenable to it, the EC will help coordinate with Pat Rector.*

G) Budget Report (Tom A.) \$470

H) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)

- 1) *Rain barrel workshop (June 25): In attendance were: Mary Anne from Green Team, plus EC members Nancy, Ron, Lisa, and Tom N, plus Council members Melissa, and Rich. Ron commented that downspout hookup is the most daunting part. Tom N to return incorrect overflow fixtures and obtain correct ones.*
- 2) *Monday June 11, EC, Parks and Rec Advisory Board, and Open Space had a meeting to discuss each body's mission and how we could work more closely. Decision was to try to meet a couple times a year. Tom N recommends full attendance by EC members. Next meeting expected in September, pending Cathy Winterfeld confirmation.*
- 3) *NY/NJ Trails Conference is looking for volunteers to help with Mountainside Park trails. See flier.*

I) Town Council Liaison Report (Melissa) Report from the July 12 Council meeting:

- 1) *Many abandoned houses, so resolution was passed to fine the owner up to \$500 for not maintaining the property to cover the DPW cost of mowing the grass.*
- 2) *High School turf project was started. There is a large soil pile associated with the project. There was little or no review process and the EC's concerns about the project will not be heard. There are to be two artificial fields and a new track; however, these facilities will not be open to the public and the track will not be regulation and so cannot be used for competition.*
- 3) *Outdoor Smoking Ban being worked on for ballfields and some parks, rather than all Township Owned properties.*
- 4) *Expansion of Hearle Village senior housing will increase impervious cover.*
- 5) *Town to purchase of right of way by Jackson Ave and Rt 23 South.*
- 6) *Removal of feeder dams discussed. DEP says feeder dams will "come out" and either has performed or will perform a study to analyze potential upstream and downstream effects. Jay Wancyk of the Historic District Commission has reports from the 1920s about the dams. Tom N asked if, instead of completely removing the dams, cutting a v-notch into them will provide the sought-after benefits while maintaining a measure of flood mitigation to downstream areas. Answer was not known by any present.*

- 7) *Council approved resolution establishing the Green Team Advisory Committee “to pursue initiatives to make Pequannock a more sustainable community”*
- 8) *Christopher Lotito was appointed to the Flood Advisory Committee.*
- J) Planning Board Liaison Report (Philip)
  - 1) *Phil distributed a copy of the Right of Way / paved road dimensions for each street. Tom N will scan a copy.*
  - 2) *Artificial turf project was rushed through – will not be available to the public, plus the track is not the correct size for competition. Dave Battaglia did sign off on the drainage plan, which features seepage pits as well as drains to the Sunset Ave storm drains. Project will also involved new, increased lighting.*
- K) Open Space Liaison Report (Rudy)
  - 1) *FEMA grant to purchase 22 homes is pending. This is a major advance for the River Walk. Should get confirmation this month that the purchase is a go.*
- L) Business
  - 1) Ditch/Flood Gate inspections -
    - a) *Tom N submitted copies of the Blue Line maps and MS Word copies of prior reports to Tom A, Rudy and Christopher. However the MS Word copies which were sent using “Slingshot” were not picked up prior to being timed out.*
    - b) *Rudy and Jeff plan to inspect Beaver Brook.*
  - 2) *Annual River Clean Up (Rudy) – Tentative Date: Saturday March 31 '12.*
  - 3) *PV Park water quality/clarity –good so far, getting a lot of compliments. Other town lakes have been closed for bacteria already this year.*
  - 4) Ho-Down
    - a) *Our booth is reserved with Parks and Recreation.*
    - b) *Give-away bags are ready.*
    - c) *Theme: After discussion of various alternatives, the EC decided to go with the theme “How to Dispose of Just About Anything.” This will mesh well with the Green Team’s “Recycling” topic.*
    - d) *Raffle prize: After discussion of various alternatives, the EC decided to have Blue Recycling Cans as the raffle prize. Rudy will check at Lowes and Home Depot to see if either is amenable to donate any of these for the Ho Down, but Tom N said we must have the items by September 1 to avoid a situation where we are waiting for a gift card or voucher for the item at the last minute. Tom N also warned that such large items will need to be transported to the winners’ homes and that we need to be prepared to be able to transport such items, which has been an issue in the past.*
    - e) *Green Alley will be implemented again this year. Expect about the same number of booths as last year. Janice Greco’s Girl Scout troop will have a booth this year.*
  - 5) Walkable Communities Workshop Program
    - a) *The Mayor wishes to have a meeting with interested parties to discuss implementation of ideas in the report. Interested parties include Dave Hollberg, Joe Wells, DPW, Police, and Tom Andrea.*
  - 6) Grants – *none discussed*
  - 7) Septic Tanks/Sewers
    - a) *Educate town about maintenance at Ho Down*
    - b) *Search for example ordinances on in use or development by Highlands and/or other towns for septic tank maintenance. Tom N, Melissa to follow up on this by searching*
  - 8) Ordinances or Resolutions
    - a) *Municipal Well Head Protection Ordinance – At the July 26, 2011 Council Meeting at about 7:30PM there will be a presentation on the Municipal Well Head Protection Ordinance. The presenters will be Brian F. Jacobus, Environmental Specialist from Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority and Ella Filippone from Groundwater Protection Committee. If possible, please*

*attend this meeting for the presentation, it is OK to leave the meeting right after the less than 30 minute presentation.*

- 9) *Bamboo issues in town. Christopher distributed an email calling for something to be done about bamboo. Tom N said this had been looked at last year and the finding as stated by Dave Hollberg was that an ordinance would not work – these have been unsuccessful in the past and challenged by special interests (landscapers' groups). Tom N also stated that he noticed bamboo along Romondt Ditch/Meyers Brook at Village Road, and that although the patch is relatively small now, the moist conditions will allow the bamboo to quickly invade the area. Christopher suggested that the town remove all bamboo from Town property, educate residents about control and advise them that they would bear the costs to repair damage caused. Tom N stated that holding residents financially responsible is not likely to work, but that the other items might be worth trying. Melissa suggested writing a letter to Town Council/ Manager to remove Bamboo from Town Property.*
- 10) *Christopher requested to be able to post draft agenda on his blog prior to the meeting. Tom N had previously responded via email that he did not think this was appropriate, but invited Christopher to post a link to the minutes on the EC website. Christopher pointed out that the minutes are not posted for at least a month after the meeting itself, and that the public should be able to see what upcoming agenda topics would be. While neither Tom A nor Melissa saw an issue with this, Tom N stated that currently the agenda is not really an official document but rather is made the day before the meeting as an aid to keep the meetings running efficiently; the approved minutes are the official documents. Tom N creates the minutes by editing the “agenda” document during the meeting, and Tom A modifies the file by filling in from his notes and sends the resulting version to the EC for review prior to the next meeting. Tom N stated that he is not opposed to getting minutes posted earlier than the current month later when they are approved, but he said he believes minutes should be approved before being made official and posted. Melissa will check into whether minutes can be approved outside of a meeting (i.e., via email “votes” which could speed up the process.) Tom N also pointed out that trying the speed up the process will likely cause someone more work and asked whether the extra effort is really worth it, and that there is no problem with the current system.*
- 11) *Recyclables Picked Up By Trash Haulers. Lisa reports that recyclables are being taken by the Trash Haulers. This is probably illegal as there are 2 separate contractors – one for recyclables and another for trash. Lisa will notify Dave Hollberg that this seems to be a common problem.*

M) Action Items:

All:

- 1) Stream inspections.
- 2) Website: *Compile list of websites and internet links to include. Give Tom A more information.*

Tom Newman:

- 1) *Review stream-inspection reports completed since last submittal. When complete, submit the new reports to Council and schedule with Jill Hartman to present to Planning Board. 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. Tom N will do this when he's ready.*
- 3) *Thank you letter to North Boulevard for their donation to the Environmental Commission. Drafted but holding pending results from Tom A of what the school can use.*
- 4) *Send Rudy a copy of the Blue-Line done*
- 5) *Send Rudy/Christopher copy of template. Done*
- 6) *Send Tom A copies of the Jeff Keller clips to edit. Done. Also made a “table of contents” listing topics covered in each clip.*

- 7) *Tom N to respond to Mary Jane of Suburban Womens' Club that she should ask Dave Hollberg in lieu of the Fire House to see if the Fire House is amenable to hosting a rain barrel. If so, the EC will help coordinate with Pat Rector.*

Melissa Florance-Lynch:

Thomas Andrea:

- 1) *Do stream report for Glens area walked with Tom Newman:  
[http://www.everytrail.com/view\\_trip.php?trip\\_id=470637](http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=470637).*
- 2) *Edit the Mountainside Hike video for broadcast.*
- 3) *Find suitable gift for NBS since they gave us a donation.*
- 4) *Add Green Demolitions and Home Depot mini dumpster bag to our website.*

Lisa Martinus:

- 1) *Sustainable NJ*
  - a. *Resolution Status*

Rudy Steintal:

- 1) *Continue Stream Inspections.*
- 2) *Follow up on the \$25 gift check from Hudson City Savings Bank. Spoke to Diane – just need to put in a requisition.*
- 3) *Do Beaver Brook stream inspection with Jeff M.*
- 4) *Blue line listing for checklist*

Philip Dickinson:

- 1) *Obtain info regarding Right of Ways with respect to township trees, reviewing. Done*

Jeff Mauriello:

- 1) *Accompany Rudy on stream investigation*

Nancy Towner:

- 1) *Help put together a presentation of EC for Council sent. Done – sent 1 page to Tom N.*

Ron Baran:

- 1) *Keep track of municipal energy audit; Donnelly (contractor). Work should be done within 2 weeks then will do complete audit – will know more by end of summer.*

## N) General Calendar

July 26, 2011 7:30 Council Meeting – presentation on Wellhead Protection

September ??, 2011 – tentative EC/P&R/OS joint meeting.

September 17, 2011 – Ho-Down, setup 8AM start 12PM end 7PM; Rain date next day

## O) Adjournment: 9:49pm.

## 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.*