

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013; 7:30 PM
Pequannock Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room

A) Call to Order 7:34pm

B) Roll Call

1) Members (Present/Absent):

- a) Chair: Tom Newman present
- b) Secretary: Tom Andrea present
- c) Open Space Liaison: Rudy Steintal present
- d) Planning Board Liaison: Philip Dickenson present
- e) Jeff Mauriello present
- f) Ron Baran absent
- g) Tom Murphy absent
- h) Alternate #1: Ralph DiBuono present
- i) Council Liaison: Melissa Florance-Lynch present

C) Public Comments (list those in attendance)

1) *CLR – Chris Regan, President (877) CLR-SOUL, cell (973)714-1775, cregan@clrsolutionsnj.com, www.clrsolutionsnj.com. Electronics recycling & refurbishing. Currently works with Mendham Borough. Will take many different electronics, except for refrigerators, washing machines. Air conditioners, computers, TVs are acceptable. Charge to come out to a household. Charges vary: will be a charge for a “house call,” and/or for particular items such as tube TVs. \$75 flat fee covers overhead to visit a house (will go into a home), additional \$25 to take a TV. CSR will also perform a collection center as a fund raiser – they charged from participants and then returned some funds to the church, \$10 TV, \$15 ACs+ dehumidifiers+ refrigerators, \$5 CRT monitors. Free would be phones, PCs, microwaves, alarm clocks, stereos, etc. Best Buy builds price of electronics recycling into cost, and they can get credits for recycling from other State programs. Chris says that having a “Dumpster” collection is not a good system for multiple reasons. Trinity Recycling is CLR’s partner for recycling. If town does this, the town could get recycling credits for the tonnage of recycling. Chris lives in Mine Hill. Environmental Commission will put his info on the website.*

D) Special Presentations

E) Approval of Meeting Minutes – 1/9/2013 Rudy motioned, Tom N seconded.

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

1) M2013-002

- a) From – Township of Pequannock, Mayor Richard Phelan
- b) Date – 1/10/2013
- c) Subject – Letters soliciting donations for River Cleanup
- d) Action – Our Copies
- e) Details – 13 letters sent, Staples, Shoprite of Lincoln Park, Pompton Pharmacy, Renewergy Solutions Group, KC's, Jones Hardware, BJ's, Atlantic Stewardship Bank, FoodTown, Friendly's, Golden China Kitchen, and Walmart

2) M2013-003

- a) From – Township of Pequannock Planning Board
- b) Date – 1/17/2013
- c) Subject – Petrarca, 157 Mountain Ave
- d) Action – Comments Sought

3) *Details – Subdivision and Flood Plain Development: will turn one conforming lot into two non-conforming lots. The Environmental Commission urges the Township to reject granting variances to allow this proposal. This proposal would transform one conforming property into two non-conforming properties that do not meet the existing zoning requirements for lot size, lot dimensions, and setbacks that are appropriate for this area. Furthermore, the Environmental Commission believes that this proposal would enable further development in this environmentally sensitive area, which would in turn worsen the potential flooding of other properties downstream.*

4) M2013-004

- a) From – The Pequannock River Coalition
- b) Date – 2/2013
- c) Subject – The Pequannock Post Newsletter
- d) Action – FYI
- e) Details – They want to remove feeders dams and other goings on. Removal could potentially worsen flooding in downstream areas (e.g., Pequannock, Lincoln Park, etc.)

G) Budget Report (Tom A.)

Environmental Commission Shirts handed out.

2013 - \$1000 - ANJEC renewal w/Workshop \$350 = \$650

ANJEC Renewal Workshop plan.

H) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.) *No comments.*

I) Town Council Liaison Report (Melissa)

1) *Proposal to have Flood Committee, Green Team, Open Space report through the Environmental Commission prior to reporting to the Council as a way to vet the material. We already have members on the EC that are members of the Green Team (Ralph) and Open Space (Rudy) but there is no such cross-membership with the Flood Committee. Discussed was the idea that Flood*

Committee could send one of their members to join the EC as an alternate member, or that the Flood Committee send a rep to the EC to discuss their proposals/initiatives/etc. prior to presenting to the Council.

2) *Green Team – needs members – not now an official committee, so far Melissa has 5 candidate members.*

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

1) *Chilton Hospital – Phil is the sitting chair on this. They will reduce the parking lot sizes and traffic patterns (right turn only to/from Van Dyke). Also perk testing – Phil indicated that they should perform these.*

2) *Petrarcha (see above).*

3) *Tom N. mentioned that we have a number of “Blue Line Reports” that will soon be ready to present to the PB. Tom N. told Melissa that the protocol is to submit the reports to Council and PB, then do the presentation to the PB, who will approve for inclusion in the ERI, which will be incorporated into the Master Plan.*

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

1) *FEMA buyout closed this week (37 Pequannock Ave).*

2) *Almay not completed because an oil tank had leaked, now being cleaned up for about \$10,000.*

3) *Riverwalk: looking for appraisals for easements.*

4) *Repair of a ballfield at a school – wants to use some of the open space money. Discussion was that per the original referendum, the green space money is to be used to **acquire** lots for recreation and conservational purposes. There is a strong push now to use open space funds to fix the Gerace ballfield and “improve” it to be a combination 60 and 90-ft ballfields. The larger size would be for high school or adult leagues. Using the open space money for this purpose appears to be inconsistent with the original referendum, and the EC believes that green space money should be used as intended.*

L) **Business**

1) **Ditch/Flood Gate inspections** - *Completed 3 inspections in January: 1 by Rudy and Ralph, 1 by Rudy himself, and 1 by Jeff M and Tom N.*

2) **Mayor’s River Clean Up – April 6, 2013: (Rudy) –**

a) *Where to clean this year?*

b) *Rudy needs eyes to see state of areas just prior to cleanup*

c) *Need ATVs.*

d) *Send acknowledgement letters to High School Students who help, great community service.*

3) **PV Park water quality/clarity –**

a) *Aeration could be added to PV Park. References have been received. None have shown experience with swimming areas. Tom N said aeration/circulation will not improve bacteria issues. Ralph has a*

concern of the placement and portability of the compressors for the units; will not want to move this when preparing for a flood.

4) Street Fair - Sunday, June 9 from

<http://www.jcpromotions.info/pages/schedule.html> website

5) Ho-Down

6) Walkable Communities Workshop Program

a) Plan is put in place but EC has no details, we would like to see those details. Mayor Phelan sent an email to Tom A (cc'd to Tom N) to respond that Dave would be able to meet to discuss during the day, but not at an evening EC meeting.

7) Grants – none discussed

8) Ordinances or Resolutions – none discussed

9) Household Hazardous Waste Pick-up: - scheduled for October 19, 2013

10) Our file cabinet was moved to the mailroom, three large boxes still in the hallway, under the bench, need to be moved

M) Action Items:

All:

1) Stream inspections.

1) Website: Compile list of websites and internet links to include.

2) Town Newsletter: submit articles to place in the newsletter – next is coming out the end of March.

3) Volunteers for Green Team?

4) Ideas for 2013

a) Website update, including links to a variety of topics

b) Presentation – at library and/or at Cedar Crest?

c) Hike with Jeff Keller

5) Add Water Blending to ERI.

Tom Newman:

1) Ask Dave B. if the EC can help the township compile information on the stormwater infrastructure if required by the MS4 permits, including location and surface specifications on catch basins, culverts, or other storm water infrastructure in town. Current equipment (cameras, for example) automatically get GIS coordinates and would be suitable for GIS.

2) 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. Phil suggests July, Tom N to reach out to Linda Z for scheduling in July.

- 3) Conduct a “Day in the Life of a Water Droplet in Pequannock” for the scouts.
- 4) Check with Virginia Michelin at Morris County Planning Dept. to see if she knows when we can expect updates to FEMA maps.

Melissa Florance-Lynch:

- 1) Email Feeder Dam Study to EC members.

Thomas Andrea:

- 1) Do stream report for Glens area walked with Tom Newman:
http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=470637 .

Rudy Steinthal:

- 1) Blue line listing for checklist, using files from Tom N.
- 2) Send reminders for Spring Cleanup.

Philip Dickinson:

Jeff Mauriello:

- 1) Complete photos for stream inspection.

Ron Baran:

Tom Murphy:

- 1) Review Tom N's ideas RE website changes.

- N) General Calendar
 - April 6, 2013, Mayor's Annual River Cleanup
 - June 9, 2013, Pequannock Street Fair
 - September 21, 2013 (Saturday) 11am-5pm, Rain Date - September 21*
 - (Week after New Jersey Firemen's Convention September 13 & 14, 2013)*
 - October 19, 2013, MCMUA Household Hazardous Waste Pick-up Day
- O) Adjournment 10:20pm

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.