

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013; 7:32 PM Commenced Meeting
Pequannock Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room

A) Call to Order

B) Roll Call

1) Members (Present/Absent):

- a) Chair: Tom Newman *present*
- b) Secretary: Tom Andrea *present*
- c) Open Space Liaison: Rudy Steinthal *present*
- d) Planning Board Liaison: Philip Dickenson *present*
- e) Jeff Mauriello *present*
- f) Ron Baran *present*
- 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) *Matt Columbo –*

a) has put in for membership on the green team

b) is a certified substitute and would want to assist in Environmental Club in schools (see his email)

2) *Mike Flood – Boy Scouting Leader, working on college degree at Ramapo College*

a) Notes that High School no longer has an Environmental Club because school no longer offers a stipend to a teacher to lead the club

3) *Spencer Andrea – Boy Scout, interested in environmental issues in town*

D) Special Presentations - none

E) Approval of Meeting Minutes – 7/10/2013, *no meeting in August due to lack of a quorum. Rudy motions to approve, Ralph 2nds*

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

1) M2013-016

a) From – DMR&D LLP; 102 Kurland Street; Wayne, NJ

b) Date – 7/9/2013, received 7/12/2013

c) Subject – NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Verification and Individual Permit

d) Action – FYI

e) Details – Construction of a 1,140 square foot addition to an existing garage at 96 Umberto Street.

f) *Site is in Wayne, fairly distant from the township, in the downstream direction. A large garage structure. Tom N motioned to pass this on to the flood committee and the motion was carried.*

2) M2013-017

a) From – Pequannock River Coalition

b) Date – August 2013

c) Subject – The Pequannock Post Newsletter

d) Action – FYI

e) Details – Goings on in the area related to PRC. One interesting thing, they worry about dredging the rivers might do more harm than good.

f) *Informational only, no comment from PEC*

3) M2013-018

a) From – Township of Pequannock

b) Date – 8/12/2013

c) Subject – Amendment to Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI)

d) Action – FYI

e) Details – Removing two town owned properties, Library (Newark Pompton Turnpike) and Block 1704, Lot 1 Sunset and Brooklawn.

f) *Notification, public hearing 24th of September.*

4) E2013-004

a) From – colombo.matt@gmail.com; on behalf of; Matt Colombo <mcolombo@eden.rutgers.edu>

b) To – ptec@peqtwp.org

c) Date – various

d) Subject – Green team and Environmental Clubs

e) Action – Responded and Matt will be at our September meeting to discuss.

f) Details – Matt is documenting things the Green Team has done to earn points. He would also like to see the Environmental Clubs do a garden.

G) Budget Report (Tom A.)

Balance - \$650

H) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)

1) *Inquiry from citizen about invasive vs. native trees/plants on his property; I sent him several references including the Rutgers Extension, Master Gardeners group*

2) *Oct 19 2013 presentation at ANJEC conference on emergency preparedness: Kerry Miller requested that I present on how the EC went around the town*

after flooding to collect household hazardous waste (chemicals, electronics, etc.) for proper disposal by MCMUA. Ironically, this is the same day as the MCMUA collection, Tom N requested that someone from the EC attend the MCMUA collection and send him photos for his presentation! – Tom Andrea volunteered.

3) Newsletter – Tom N submitted material advertising the MCMUA HHW collection day.

4) Assignments regarding the October 19 MCMUA HHW Collection Day:

a) Tom A: post on the NJ.com, Facebook

b) Melissa: Suburban Trends, Channel 77, on electronic sign

I) Town Council Liaison Report (Melissa)

1) Complaints from residents about Pequannock Ave, etc. continuing to “natural state.” What is PEC’s feeling about this?

a) Tom N: depends on what the Township desires to commit to from a maintenance perspective. The Town can immediately plant desirable native plants when the tear-down leaves the site bare initially. After that, the Town can either leave the site in a “natural state” – which should not cause a problem with vermin, etc. but would provide a habitat for deer, rabbits, skunks, foxes, etc. Tom N said he would have no issue if the Town created a trail and/or placed exercise stations, walking paths, parking areas for access, etc.; however this will create ongoing maintenance needs. Also note that pedestrian bridges if required would require permits etc. that may take a long time and perhaps costly procedures?

b) Joe Golden – has contacted the EC and told Melissa that he’d be happy to come to the EC. Tom N will reach out to him to invite him

JGolden@pegtwp.org

c) Water Blending Facility dedication on Sat 10 am on West End.

d) Town Survey: will be coming out soon with various questions

J) Planning Board Liaison Report (Philip)

1) Two issues:

a) Add 15 ft. to back of lot like a subdivision by Mt Ave.

b) Large lot divided into 2 lots by Post Road.

K) Open Space Liaison Report (Rudy)

1) Oil tank removed, testing complete and soil clean.

2) Morris County flood program, FEMA money coming in to continue buyouts

3) 2-3 properties closed in August, property on Harrison will close shortly,

4) Riverwalk Assessments – Gulf 23 donated easement

5) Rossi signs went up as indicated above.

6) *Private owner owns lot on Jefferson and wants to develop 7 houses there but it was on our desired list for open space a while ago; township did appraisal as 1 lot = \$200K. Developer said \$1.2M at \$250k/lot.*

L) **Business**

1) **Ditch/Flood Gate inspections** - will resume in Dec/Jan when vegetation clears

2) **Mayor's River Clean Up (Rudy)** –

a) *Proposed 2014 River cleanup: Saturday, April 5th 2014 – blast will go out this week. Rudy looking for Scouts to volunteer.*

3) **PV Park water quality/clarity** – *There was another high bacteria count after closure – Rudy asked if a DNA test was done? Answer: No. Melissa suggests that Tom N present how this works to the Council. Tom N had sent information out earlier this year and re-sent that email again during the meeting.*

4) **Ho-Down - September 21, 2013 (Saturday) 11am-5pm, Rain Date - September 22**

a) **THEMES/GAMES:** *use the “Oscar the Grouch” game to emphasize what is and is not recyclable and how to recycle. This would go hand in hand with the Green Sky booth’s information but this is a very important topic for the town.*

b) **Other information**

1. *Mosquito control best practices*

a. *Ralph will get info from MCMC to make a fliers –*

b. *Or invite MCMC to Hoe Down*

2. *Parks and Town’s natural resources*

3. *Septic System care*

4. *Other fliers etc. that the EC has had previously*

c) **Invitations to other groups to come to Hoe Down**

1. *Tom A will invite Peq. River Commission and Green Sky*

2. *Ron will invite NYNJ Trail Commission, Master Gardener*

3. *Matt will contact Solar and More will contact them and tell them to call P&R as a guest of the Green Team*

4. *Melissa will follow up to each of the above to encourage them to come*

d) **PRIZES:**

1. *Composter – wins vote Jeff is ordering a composter Amazon.com \$109. + tax = \$116.63*

e) **RAFFLE ITEMS:**

1. *Reusable bags – Tom A has bags*

2. *Pencils are missing! – Rudy and Tom N to look for these*

3. *Gift cards for ShopRite (\$200), FoodTown (\$25), Target (\$20)*

f) **MANNING BOOTH SCHEDULE:** *opens at 11, cars out at 9:00*

1. Rudy - 9:00 can stay for duration
2. Ron – away
3. Phil – 12-1pm
4. Ralph - 9:00 can stay for duration
5. Tom A – busy at dunk tank
6. Tom N - can set up early but then away
7. Jeff M – away
8. Matt - can volunteer to be there too

5) Walkable Communities Workshop Program

- a) Once our new engineer and Council have had a chance to review the plans we can go over the plans. Nothing new

6) Grants

7) Ordinances or Resolutions

- a) Tom A will be working on one related to the Threatened and Endangered Species Workshop he took. Emailed a sample ordinance we can discuss..

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

- a) Tom A will take photos and email to Tom N's email address as early as possible on Oct 19, Tom N will incorporate into his PowerPoint.

9) Fall Public Outreach Activity

- a) Jeff Keller – hike or “night sounds” session. Tom N will reach out to Jeff to finalize a date on a Saturday. EC will pay Jeff with remaining funds.

10) Green Team: Ralph

- a) Met with Joe Golden who applied to state for funds to build a rain garden at Library in front. Tom N said there is a septic system there or nearby: a rain garden should not be installed on top of the septic leach field.

11) ANJEC Training –

- a) Tom A – went to T&E species workshop
- b) Tom M- went to one this year
- c) Others

12) Bio Blitz, could we do one at Woodland Lake??? Example:

<http://web.uconn.edu/mnh/bioblitz/> - Watershed Ambassador may be able to lead this, Tom A – also knows someone who could lead this. Tom A will contact that person to coordinate.

13) Environmental Clubs in schools, Tom A. Advisor

- a) Email sent to schools with brochure to start Environmental Clubs in the three elementary schools and the middle school. Each club would meet once a month.

M) Action Items for next meeting:

All:

- 1) Website: Compile list of websites and internet links to include.
- 2) Town Newsletter: contribute articles
- 3) ERI: look into upcoming updates; should add water blending, stream-inspection reports, updated open space maps, etc.

Tom Newman:

- 1) Plan to set up at Hoe Down
- 2) Contact Jeff Keller about date for a fall. 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. .
- 3) Contact Joe Golden (Township Engineer) to
 - a. invite him to an EC meeting.
 - b. ask if township has the information on the storm water infrastructure as required by the MS4 permits, including Catch Basins, culverts, or other storm water infrastructure around town – current equipment (cameras, for example) automatically get GIS coordinates and would be suitable for GIS. The EC will be happy to assist in the process.
 - c. Ask how the “Day in the Life of a Water Droplet in Pequannock” field day might be coordinated.

Melissa Florance-Lynch:

- 1) Put notice on the MCMUA HHW Collection Day in Suburban Trends, Channel 77, and Township’s electronic sign. Can draw information from Tom N’s 8/29/2013 email for this purpose.
- 2) Follow up with EC requests to Green Sky, NYNJ Trail Commission, Peq River Commission, Rutgers Extension Master Gardeners, Solar and More, etc. to attend Hoe Down

Thomas Andrea:

- 1) Reach out to Green Sky and Pequannock River Coalition about attending the Hoe Down
- 2) Put notice on the MCMUA HHW Collection Day on NJ.com and Facebook. Can take info from Tom N’s 8/29/2013 email
- 3) Plan to attend the October 19 2013 MCMUA HHW Collection Day to take photos of the activities and to email these photos to Tom Newman at tnewman@hdrinc.com
- 4) Reach out to contact for a potential “Bio-Blitz” survey in town

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

Rudy Steinthal:

- 1) Plan to man Hoe Down booth for entire time
- 2) Blue line listing for checklist (name streams), using files from Tom N.

Philip Dickinson:

- 1) Plan to man Hoe Down booth 12-1pm

Jeff Mauriello:

- 1) Order Composter as Hoe Down raffle prize (done during meeting)
- 2) Bring Composter to Hoe Down or arrange for another EC member to do so.

Ron Baran:

- 1) Reach out to NYNJ Trail Commission and Rutgers Extension Master Gardeners groups about attending Hoe Down.

Tom Murphy:

- 1) Plan to man Hoe Down booth for as long as possible
- 2) Review Tom N's ideas RE website changes.

Ralph DiBuono:

- 1) Plan to man Hoe Down booth for entire duration

N) General Calendar

September 21, 2013 (Saturday) Ho-Down 11am-5pm, Rain Date – 9/22
October 19, 2013, MCMUA Household Hazardous Waste Pick-up Day

O) Adjournment 9:17 adjourn.

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.