

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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(Approved at June 2, 2011 Meeting)

Minutes of May 5, 2011 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Leon Lakritz. The following members were in attendance: Harry Larzelere, Vicky Binetti, Anne Hastings, Lola Pellegrino, Rich Fini, Mark Phillips, Jodi Smith, Chet Nawoyski, and Ann Culkin. On a motion by Vicky Binetti, seconded by Harry Larzelere, the minutes for the April 7, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Harry Larzelere reported that our budget balance remains at \$700.

Guests

Washington Development Self-Storage - The applicant did not attend tonight's meeting as scheduled. The Commission, however, reviewed their tree plan for a self-storage facility they propose to build on Delsea Drive behind Mitchell Hardware. Applicant intends to plant trees in the front and rear of the building as well as along the side of the building. The 46 trees to be planted in the rear of the building may count as compensation. According to our preliminary calculations, 64 trees are estimated for compensation under the ordinance. Taking into consideration the 46 trees to be planted on site in the rear, Applicant will be responsible for at least 18 compensation trees. The Commission is amenable to having these 18 trees planted on or off site or a contribution made to the tree trust fund.

Soil samples were tested for pesticides and arsenic, and results were less than NJDEP standards. Rich Fini noted that the new buffer trees to be planted must be protected by a conservation easement. In light of the fact that the Commission did not receive all of the required documents, we are unable at this time to offer any opinion or recommendation.

Smyle LLC – Applicant did not attend this evening’s meeting. The Commission held a discussion regarding plans to build a dental office on the SW corner of Hurffville-Cross Keys Road and Greentree Road. An existing building will be demolished. There are 9 trees on the property, eight of which will be removed. One 44” maple tree will be saved. The applicant will be responsible for the replacement of 14 trees, none of which will be planted on site. Therefore, we will request compensation to the tree trust fund. Additionally, a request will be made for compensation for street trees that are not provided. Since their Phase I is over 180 days old, applicant will submit an update as well as an Environmental Impact Worksheet. Applicant agreed to all professional comments and was amenable to providing a landscape conservation easement. The Environmental Commission expressed no preference as to how compensation should be made and would be agreeable to off-site planting or a contribution to the tree trust fund.

Old Business

Township Clean Up Day

Anne Hastings recently reached out to see if surrounding communities would be interested to participate in a Clean Up Day campaign. Deptford Township has responded with interest, and Anne Hastings and Ann Culkin will give a presentation at their May 16th meeting.

Recycling Campaign

Dry Clean World, one of our local dry cleaning establishments, is excited to get involved in recycling and is currently looking into the possibility of developing reusable dry cleaning bags. This dry cleaning business participated in our Earth Day endeavors by recycling clothes hangers.

Wellhead Protection

Vicky Binetti had no report. Rich Fini mentioned that Turnersville Auto Mall has submitted a proposal for a revised ground water monitoring plan. They also have proposed a revised BMP for snow removal, and they plan to initially remove snow from their property without using any salt and will salt only after most snow has been physically removed.

Earth Day 2011

Earth Day 2011 was cancelled due to inclement weather on both the scheduled day and the rain date. Anne Hastings, chair person, said that a handful of vendors requested a refund. Most asked for a credit for next year as they are repeat participants. The cakes that were donated by Aversa and Classic Cake were given to charitable organizations. The theme of this year’s event was “repurpose, reuse and

refashion.” In line with this, Anne Hastings took the opportunity to show the Commission some examples of handcrafts that can be made from items usually discarded; i.e., a shopping bag made out of supermarket plastic bags, a bird feeder fashioned from a coffee can, potpourri containers made from baby food jars, wind chimes made from empty prescription pill bottles, just to name a few.

Guest Seminars/Presentations

Leon Lakritz received an invitation to give a presentation for 7th grade students at the Chestnut Ridge Middle School on the 16th of May. The topic is the hazards of polluting the environment. Because of time constraints with other projects, Leon had to decline to participate this year.

Stream Sampling

Chet Nawoyski has been working with the school representatives to see if they could provide a volunteer teacher to chaperone our bi-annual stream sampling. Without the volunteer, we cannot proceed with stream sampling.

Faulty Street Light Project

To initiate this project, Leon Lakritz obtained street maps of the Township, and he is looking for someone to delineate the various housing developments on these maps. They will be used as a guide for the high school students assigned to identify malfunctioning street lights that remain on 24 hours a day and waste energy. The students will identify the malfunctioning lights by noting the address of the nearest home and record the information on a form which Leon has prepared.

New Business

Planning and Zoning Boards

Rich Fini reported on the following applications:

Planning Board – May 3, 2011

- Smyle LLC, dental office located at 564 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road. This was a workshop. Applicant will return next month for preliminary and final approval.

Zoning Board – April 11, 2011

- Barca, 2 Tarpon Ct. – Bulk variance
- WTMOB I, LLC - Applicant came in for a signage application, and it was approved.
- E & R Properties, 263 Blackwood-Barnsboro Road, nearby Washington Way Apartments. This matter was postponed. Applicant only intends to proceed with the construction of a day care

facility and not the office building. If so, this application will be re-submitted to the Planning Board.

Super Saturday

The Environmental Commission will participate in Super Saturday this year and has been assigned location #49 for the event which is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th. The Environmental Commission will be distributing basil plants and tree seedlings left over from the cancellation of Earth Day.

Bird Quest

Vicky Binetti mentioned that the Gloucester County Nature Club is hosting Bird Quest which will be held this coming Saturday.

County Library

Lola Pellegrino announced that the new library located at the former EIRC building on Delsea Drive will host a grand opening on June 18th. We have been invited to participate. Lola and Robin Dahm will set up a display and distribute environmental literature.

Committee Reports

Open Space

The Open Space Committee is in the process of planting over 100 trees along Winchester Drive. However, a number of delays have hampered the completion of this project.

Council

No report in Daniel Morley's absence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by

/s/Dorothy Hunter

Dorothy Hunter, Secretary
Washington Township Environmental Commission