

**BOROUGH of METUCHEN  
Environmental Commission  
Minutes of the January 2008 Regular Meeting**

**A meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission was held on  
Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 7:30 PM at Borough Hall.**

**Present were:** Marc Herzberg, Chair, John Leazer, Don Toth, Pat Donahue, Ann Sardone, Tom Rudel, Brian Weeks.

**Absent were:** Arline Zatz, Mike Vissichelli and Will Waldron.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM.**

**Commission Reorganization:** Steve Toth, Tom Rudel, and John Leazer were all reappointed as members. Ann Sardone has rejoined the commission as an alternate. Marc Herzberg will continue as chair of the commission for 2008. The question came up as to whether or not the secretary's position should rotate. We decided to continue with the secretary's position rotating on a monthly or a two month basis. Pat Donahue will forward the corrected minutes to the clerk's office for posting on the borough website. Pat established a schedule for doing the secretary's job and circulated a list with contact information for updating.

**Minutes** of the November meeting were approved.

**Correspondence:** A wetlands permit for the construction of a cell tower on Liberty Street was approved by the state. The location of the site is open to question. Some discussion ensued about whether or not the wetlands were in the Gulton property and how these determinations are made. The developers there filled in some phragmites land and put down a parking lot. The municipality applied for funds through a Rutgers - NJDEP program on water conservation. An inquiry about the country fair booth revealed that we would have to pay for the booth. The commission also received ANJEC notices about planning grants.

Thomas Park Pond - We purchased water monitoring equipment for use at Tommy's Pond with an eye towards improving the water quality in the pond. The actual monitoring has not yet begun. Brian Weeks will follow up. Marc Herzberg sent a note to Fred Hall about DPW's role in the upkeep of the site.

Metuchen High School Construction - most of the major work appears to be done. We will follow this issue for another meeting.

Greenway - the issue of greenway maintenance came up; the county does not at present maintain the greenway. The rangers should go through the area once a month. Some sort of maintenance plan should be in place. How are the health and safety of the public

assured under this arrangement. Taking some pictures of the area would indicate the level of disrepair.

Dismal Swamp - the fence and newly constructed materials are now falling apart. We need a regular schedule of maintenance for the site. The maintenance issue here is similar to the one involving the greenway. People questioned our relationship with public works department of the town. Ann pointed out that work orders coming from offices in town government get things done. A work order from the recreation commission might get some of the maintenance on these passive recreation sites done. Dismal Swamp and Centennial Park would both benefit from refurbishing. Steve Toth says that he will follow up with the borough administrator.

Dog Park - The parade of dogs will recur at the Memorial Day parade. Information about a proposed dog park will be available at the table where you can get a free rabies shoot.

Tree Farm - Pool Parking Lot - The idea of tree farm on land adjacent to Edgar School has been proposed; school personnel are positive about the idea, but not very committed. A proposal for a curriculum change would have to go to the Board of Education. The idea of planting a row of trees along the fence that borders the athletic fields at Edgar was brought up and discussed favorably. These trees would not serve as a tree farm. This issue is being addressed by both the Shade Tree and Environmental Commissions. The planting would occur on Arbor Day, April 25th. The Shade Tree Commission is planning this event with our assistance. They will bring the trees. Brian Weeks will talk to them about who needs to give us the go-ahead to do the work.

Open Space - Some discussion of the Woodbrook Pond potential walk through with the new mayor occurred. After some discussion of the merits of our continuing efforts to acquire this property, the idea of a walk through was approved.

Renaissance Plaza development was reviewed. The sewage treatment issues surrounding the development received extensive attention. John Leazer said that he would follow up on this issue.

Global warming - bike racks got no response from the Chamber of Commerce. The postmistress was not particularly enthusiastic about the idea, but it was agreed that other people would raise the issue with her.

Recycling - a DEP recycling coordinator will be invited to a future commission meeting.

**New Business** - We should write an annual report for the borough council and website. Each member will write a summary of the past year's activities and send it to Pat to assemble into an annual report.

Meeting was adjourned, 9:48PM.

