

Minutes of the March 18, 2009 Meeting
Metuchen Environmental Commission

Members in attendance: Mark Herzberg, Chair, Patricia Donahue, Tom Rudel, Brian Weeks, Steve Toth, and Ann Sardone

Absent Members: Arline Zatz, Kathy Busch, Mike Vissichelli and Will Waldron, Liaison

Visitors: Fred Hall, Jr. Director of DPW, Heather Barrett, NJ Watershed Ambassador and James Constantine, Borough Planner, and Evelyn Grant, member of the Public.

Correspondence: NJDEP Bulletin, no relevant notices for Metuchen.

Thomas Pond: Mike Vissichelli and other members will meet Saturday, March 28th at 9:00AM to introduce Barley Straw into the Pond for the purpose of inhibiting the development of algae blooms.

Dismal Swamp: The condition of Dismal Swamp and our other Passive Recreation Areas were discussed with Fred Hall. (Centennial Park, Edgar Woods) It was suggested by the Commission that we try to coordinate with DPW several cleanups of these areas during the year with volunteers, rather than just Earth Day.

Greenway: Extension is still being discussed. Jim Constantine brought background information on the Middlesex Greenway Extension Master Plan Project to be used in conjunction with ANJEC Grant Application. Mark requested comments from members by Monday, March 23.

Dog Park: No report

Recycling: Guest Fred Hall, Jr., Director of Public Works and Recycling Coordinator discussed current recycling issues and several options for the future that are being investigated, including issues with noncompliance by the public and enforcement. Fred also assured the Commission, recycling tonnage amounts will be supplied on a regular basis.

Edgar School and Pool Parking lot Trees: Fred Hall was very responsive to input brought forth by the commission members regarding esthetic issues with the park in general and plantings.

Open Space: No report

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Global Warming: Commission was informed Alice Fleming is working on the audit. Low bid document was examined and questions proposed along with some "fine tuning". We will now wait for the next step and Borough Council Approval

Sustainable Jersey Grant was discussed. This Grant application must be submitted by May 7, 2009.

New Business:

Heather Barrett brought Commission members up to date on The River Friendly Workshop