

**BOROUGH of METUCHEN**  
**Environmental Commission**  
**Minutes of the April 15, 2009 Regular Meeting**

A meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall. Present were: Council Liaison Will Waldron, Chair Mark Herzberg, Planning Board Liaison Kathy Busch, Tom Rudel, Steve Toth, Brian Weeks, Ann Sardone and Pat Donahue. Absent were: Arline Zatz and Mike Vissichelli. Evelyn Grant and Mike Kornitas were guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting were approved and accepted with one minor revision.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Resolution regarding participation in the Sustainable NJ Municipal Certification Program
- Copy of the Smart Growth Planning Grant application
- Letter from the Mosquito Control Commission regarding planned spraying
- Letter to Mayor from the county regarding new FEMA flood maps that add parts of Metuchen
- Flyer regarding biodiversity workshop
- NJDEP Bulletin for 3/25/09 regarding permits for Town Square on Route 1 in Edison, Marina Gardens, and Woodland Estates
- NJDEP Bulletin for 4/8/09 regarding permits for a wharf of the Raritan River in Edison

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Thomas Pond Park**

- The installation of the barley straw took longer than expected but overall went very well. Now we must wait and see if the algal blooms in the summer appear less severe than in prior years.
- Fred Hall was approached regarding the building and installation of another pedestrian bridge at the opposite end of the pond so as to allow for water plants to be added to stabilize the entrance and act as a filter.
- The idea of placing a mailbox with flyers regarding not feeding the ducks or geese was discussed.

**Edgar School and Pool Parking Lot**

- This area was selected for the Earth Day cleanup.

### **Dog Park**

- Edison is moving forward with plans for a dog park at the CIC site.
- Plans for the dog walkers in the Memorial Day parade will begin soon.
- The Chamber of Commerce is planning a pet parade on the last day of the June Bug Festival and has asked for our participation.
- Mr. Russomanno contacted the borough for information on the establishment of a dog park. Pat Donahue spoke with him and recommended that he express his support to Edison.

### **Open Space**

- A conference regarding sustainability was attended by about 300 people.
- The resolution regarding sustainability passed the council yesterday.
- Metuchen plans to register for the program and get on the list for grants. About 86 towns have already signed up.
- The grant application is due May 7. There was a lot of discussion regarding potential projects with the final decision being to submit a proposal regarding the Greenway extension. Support for the application is required at the Council meeting on May 4.

### **Greenway**

- Tom Rudel drafted a letter to Freeholder Rios regarding the Greenway extension.

### **Dismal Swamp**

- South Plainfield opposes the legislation regarding the swamp.

### **Recycling**

- We have not received any reports as yet from DPW.
- We would also like to see a copy of the application for the Recycling Tonnage Grant. Evelyn Grant will ask about this.
- The latest "Metuchen Messenger" included an article from the Mayor encouraging recycling.
- Pat Donahue suggested linking the recycling ordinance to our website.

### **Global Warming**

- The energy audit proposal currently includes the library, DPW, the senior citizens center and borough hall. There has been discussion about removing borough hall from the list. Members were not in favor. Support for keeping borough hall on the list is required at the next council meeting.
- The Smart Growth program would cover 75% of the costs of the audit.

## **Planning Board**

- There was nothing to report specifically with regard to the actions of the planning board. However, the following items were discussed:
  - A three day workshop regarding traffic circulation plans was held.
  - Renaissance Properties purchased the former Cryans property.
  - There is a lack of support for the inclusion of a road with the Greenway plan.
  - Efforts have begun to save the Forum Theatre. A meeting of interested parties is scheduled for May 14.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Members requested information on the possibility of alerting residents prior to spraying by the Mosquito Control Commission to allow them the opportunity to choose to close windows and remain indoors during spraying. Use of the web based alert was suggested. Will Waldron will look into this.
- The River Friendly workshop is to be held tomorrow night. All members were encouraged to attend.
- Earth Day will be celebrated on May 2. The group discussed possible projects for that day.
- Pat Donahue attended a meeting of the Edison Environmental Commission. Her summary is attached to these minutes as an addendum.

**There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission will take place on May 20, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall.**

# **AGENDA**

**Metuchen Environmental Commission**

**May 2009**

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Correspondence**

**Old Business**

**Thomas Park Pond**

**Edgar School and Pool Parking Lot**

**Dog Park**

**Open Space**

**Greenway**

**Tree Pruning**

**Dismal Swamp**

**Recycling**

**Global Warming**

**Planning Board**

**New Business**