

Minutes of the September 16, 2009 Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission

Present: Mark Herzberg, Steve Toth, Ann Sardone, Tom Rudel, Kathy Busch, Brian Weeks

Absent: Will Waldron, Pat Donahue, Arline Zatz, Mike Vissichelli

Visitor: Jim Constantine, Looney, Ricks, Kiss, Borough planner

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

Correspondence: Four issues of the DEP Bulletin received. The Aug. 5 issue included notice of the freshwater wetland delineation by K&W in the rear of its site at Amboy Avenue and Main Street. We also received the latest issue of the Middlesex Greenway newsletter; an invitation to the ANJEC Environmental Congress on Oct. 17; and an invitation to the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon in Atlantic City on Nov. 17.

Old Business

Thomas Park Pond - The barley straw bales, which we installed in late March, appear to have been effective in reducing the algae this summer. It was barely noticed except during a couple of very hot weeks.

Planning Board – The Technical Committee considered some issues relating to drainage and stormwater runoff from the K&W site toward the Greenway.

Greenway – We decided to focus this meeting on the Greenway extension toward South Plainfield since it will be the main focus of our outreach booth at the Oct. 3 Country Fair and the Oct. 4 site visit and public meeting. Issues included staffing of three shifts in our booth on Oct. 3 (10-12, 12-2 & 2-4); need for an awning and a table; advertising media for Oct. 4 Greenway tour and public meeting (9-11 walk, 11-12 summary & 12-2 talk) and staffing of the event. The Oct. 4 site visit will begin at the end of Liberty Street. Mark will invite Ralph Albanir, Middlesex County director of parks and open space, to the Oct. 4 event. Jim will prepare presentation boards with maps, photos and conceptual info, as well as public comment cards. We will participate in the public followup session on Nov. 17 in lieu of regular Environmental Commission meeting. We discussed other info we may present at the Country Fair, such as Honeywell Farm, largest community-supported agriculture organic farm in U.S., seeking shareholders.

Open Space - No report - see the discussion about the Greenway.

Dismal Swamp – No report.

Dog Park – No report.

Recycling - No report.

Global Warming - No report.

New Business

Energy Audit – Will Waldron has reported that the auditor, Steven Winter Associates, is preparing draft reports on each of the Borough’s four buildings, which this Commission will have the opportunity to review.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.