

Borough of Metuchen  
Environmental Commission  
Regular Meeting April 16, 2008 Agenda

**Present:** Mark Herzberg, Pat Donahue, Arline Zatz, Tom Rudel, Steve Toth, Mike Vissichelli, and Will Waldron

**Guests:** Douglas Subbiondo and Dan Heyden

The meeting Began at 7:35 PM.

The minutes of the March 19, 2008 meeting were approved.

**Correspondence**

- 2 DEP Bulletins – nothing significant pertaining to Metuchen
- 4/9/08 Notice of Wetlands Delineation at Boro Motors property. The group believes this is part of sports complex.
- Earth Day will be held on April 26 from 9-12 AM at the Senior Center
- Arbor Day will be held April 25 at the Edgar School at 4 PM
- Leonardo Tamburello sent an application expressing interest in being on a Commission but he did not specify which one.

**Tommy's Pond**

- Mike will e-mail the brochure to Mark for review and distribution. A copy will also be sent to the Chamber of Commerce.
- Mike will follow up with Metuchen High School teacher on the status of the water sampling.

**Planning Board**

- Ann attended a meeting regarding the Oakite Site. It seems that issues exist that need to be addressed by the Planning Board.
- Pat will mention our concerns regarding environmental issues at the site to the Development Commission.

**Dismal Swamp**

- No clean up by DPW has been done yet. Steve will follow up with DPW.
- The group discussed the possibility of boardwalks for the area. Mike said he would help with permits if something is funded.

**Dog Park**

- Pat will file the paper work to get the dogs in the Memorial Day parade.
- The free rabies clinic is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 from 9 to noon.

### **Tree Farm**

- Pat presented a newspaper article from 'The Record' regarding other towns in NJ that have successfully established tree farms. They have determined that they are saving approximately \$100 per tree. Clifton has been participating for many years. It may be worth speaking with someone from Clifton to find out how they made it happen.
- It does not appear that John has received an answer from the Planning Board about the tree bank or requirements for tree cutting permits.
- Mark received a phone call from Councilman Pete Cammarano who said he is interested in a tree farm and said he wants to talk to the Commission about it.

### **Edgar School**

- Home Depot donated 6 trees to plant as part of Arbor Day.
- Mike is going to a draft thank you note to send to Home Depot.
- Members of the Commission will get together on Sunday 4/20 to do site preparation work for Arbor Day. The tree planting is scheduled for Arbor Day on 4/25 at 4 PM.
- DPW will deliver wood chips.

### **Recycling**

- DPW handed out flyers about picking up electronics on the Monday after the townwide garage sale per the Commission's suggestion.
- Will is following up on tonnage grants.
- Pat's husband spoke to a janitor at the high school about their recycling program. The janitor said they do have one and they are following it.

### **Country Fair (October 4)**

- The Borough should be able to get us a free table.
- The members should discuss ideas at the next meeting on what to have at the booth.

### **Global Warming**

- Bike Racks – Funding from the Chamber of Commerce has been approved. We need to identify locations and get approvals for them.
- Pat will follow up to confirm the availability of the money.

### **Open Space**

- No new action.
- Members may take people on a walk to the Woodbrook Pond during Earth Day to expand awareness regarding this piece of potential open space in town.

### **Greenway**

- Mark attended a recent meeting. There is a design issue regarding the Lake Avenue Bridge to make it into a tunnel. Brian is going to draft a letter stating that the Commission has concerns regarding safety and use of that design. Mark will follow up with Brian on the status of this letter.

- Former Mayor Wiley is spearheading an initiative to identify open space around Dismal Swamp to try and protect it and to explore options for possible trails in the area.
- No update on the trailhead. Tom will follow up to determine who is taking lead the on the trailhead design. The next meeting of the Greenway group is on 4/17 but it does not look like anyone from the Commission will be able to attend.

### **New Business**

- Discussion was had on what to do on Earth Day.
- Pat's neighbor has a tree to donate for use in Arbor Day activities if people are willing to dig it up and transplant it.
- Pat is working on website updates.
- The East Brunswick Environmental Commission has an interactive website for residents to report on about sightings and other points of interest. They also host events such as bird walks, and create community gardens, etc. They have a group called Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, which is a not for profit that is able to get money to do projects around the town.
- Discussion was held on if it would make sense for us to follow some of these same initiatives in Metuchen. Generally everyone agreed it would be nice. Pat will follow up with East Brunswick on how they started their Friends group.
- Guests who attended said that they were there to discuss the idea of starting a friends group. They said they are willing to help in any way and that they could set up a blog to get things rolling and have an easy way to reach out to the public without having to go through the Borough's website.

The meeting ended at 9:55.