

## **METUCHEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE May 14, 2008 REGULAR MEETING**

- A meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 7:35 PM at Borough Hall. Present were Chair Mark Herzberg, Steve Toth, Brian Weeks, Pat Donahue, Ann Sardone, William Waldron, and Thomas Rudel. The following guests were also present: Douglas Subbiondo, Dan Heyden, Audra Frank, Jon Knecht, Mary Beth Day, James Day, and Shelby Day.
- The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.
- The minutes of the April 16, 2008 meeting were approved.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The registration for the upcoming country fair was received and completed. Information on the trees planted at Edgar school was submitted to the school describing the size, species, caliper, and location of the trees.  
A thank you letter was received from Edgar School regarding the tree planting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Thomas Pond**

Flyers on water quality were handed out by high school students to the homes around Tommy's pond.

#### **Planning Board**

No report.

#### **Dismal Swamp**

The clean up done on Earth Day was a success, however, a scheduled cleanup by DPW should become part of the regular clean up program.

#### **Dog Park**

Information was provided on the dog march to take place in the upcoming Memorial Day parade.

#### **Tree Farm**

The status of a proposed tree farm was discussed, and future action on this matter was outlined.

#### **Edgar School**

A review of the tree planting took place as well as a discussion on up keep of the trees. It appears that watering will have to be done by volunteers.

#### **Recycling**

The availability of an electronics pickup to take place after the town wide garage sale was discussed. The matter will be brought to the attention of DPW for next year.

#### **Country Fair**

Plans were made for staffing the booth and a committee was established to decide on handout materials and a mission.

#### **Global Warming**

The local Chamber of Commerce donated \$250 for the purchase of a bike rack. The commission will select the type and placement location.

**Open Space**

A tour of the pond site on the Edison border was conducted with the Mayor during Earth Day. The ownership of the site was also discussed.

**Greenway**

A discussion of the role of Middlesex County Parks in the Greenway took place.

**New Business**

Information was provided on energy audits for both commercial and residential properties.

During Arbor Day and Earth Day over 200 energy efficient florescent light bulbs were handed out to those in attendance. In addition, 65 nature books for children were also distributed. Each book was labeled, "Compliments of the Metuchen Environmental Commission." Each person receiving light bulbs was told that they were from the Environmental Commission through a grant received from the Sierra Club. Both giveaways were very well received and got the word out that Metuchen does, indeed, have an Environmental Commission. Many people commented that they didn't know we had one!