

**Metuchen Environmental Commission  
Minutes of the July 16, 2008 Regular Meeting**

**Review and approval of June 18, 2008 Minutes**

Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission was held on Wednesday July 16, 2008 Present were: Mark Herzberg, Chair, Will Waldron, Council Liaison, Patricia Donahue, Thomas Rudel, Arline Zatz, Mike Vissichelli and Ann Sardone. Absent were: Steve Toth, Brian Weeks and John Leazer, Planning Board Liaison. Also in attendance were the following members of the Public: Linda and Nino Lastella, Dan Heyden, Doughas Subbiondo, Audra Frank and Ben Mintz,

**Correspondence: DEP Bulletin no actions pertaining to Metuchen**

**Old Business**

**Thomas Pond:** Mike Vissichelli reported there are no updates on water quality Samples. Ben Mintz, a member of New Jersey Community Water Watch (<http://njwaterwatch.org/>) offered training to community volunteers in monitoring the water quality of Thomas Pond with Mike and other waterways within the Borough (Dismal Brook, Mill Brook).

Algae Bloom and the condition of the pump were discussed, Ann will follow up with DPW.

**Planning Board:** No report, however, Mark volunteered to document the existing trees at the proposed development on Amboy Avenue by photographing them

**Dismal Swamp:** Arline reported, there may be monies available in the form of a grant and will follow up and report back to the commission, additionally Bay Keepers have requested picture of Dismal

**Dog Park:** No report

**Tree Farm:** No Report

**Edgar School Trees:** Watering of the new trees continues. Members who are volunteering to do this discussed their concerns that once a week watering just may not be enough.

**Recycling: Recycling Tonnage figures were discussed, the commission expressed concern with the problem of scavengers stealing recycling prior to DPW pickup. Will Waldron will follow up on this issue.**

**Mark will talk to the Chamber and DPW about again handing out flyers for Post Garage sale pick up**

**Country Fair: Hand outs for the Fair Booth were discussed; the commission will include info about NJ Waterwatch, Open Space info, Tree planting and Recycling. Arline will pursue the possibility of including energy efficient light bulbs and nature books for children**

**Global Warming: Visitors Linda and Nino Lastella brought forth a plan for merging Art with the proposed bike racks. The Commission was very excited about this possibility.**

**Open Space: The commission continues to explore expansion of our open space by acquiring, possibly through the county, the Woodbrook Pond and areas adjoining the Greenway.**

**Greenway: No new information on the status of the Greenway or the plans for the Trail Head**

**New Business: ongoing discussion of energy audits, the Metuchen Country Fair**