

**Minutes, Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission
Sept. 16, 2015**

2015	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV
M. Herzberg, Chair	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P		
D. Rasmussen, Liaison	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P		
A. Dohl	M	M	P	P	A	A	A	P		
J. Schaffer	P	P	A	P	P	M	M	A		
B. Weeks	P	A	M	M	P	P	P	P		
Jennifer Maier, Planning Bd. Liaison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
A. Dutemple				P	M	P	P	A		M
J. Kelly					P	P	A	M	M	

Key: P=Present, A=Absent, R=Resigned; M=Minutes Assigned/Taken.

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Visitors

No Visitors or guests this month.

Minutes of July 2015 meeting

Approved.

Correspondence

There were 4 additions of the DEP bulletin but did not contain anything relative to Metuchen.

Grant Update

- No updates on the Dismal Trails Grant as per Jennifer Maier.
- DOT grant: Borough is getting an estimate for an accessible bridge across Middlesex Ave. at the Greenway. The County wants to purchase the property on the other side of Middlesex but the owner, Conrail, is not responding. It was discussed that the Surface Transportation Board should be contacted, as they would have the ability to influence Conrail to move forward. Congressman Pallone might be able to contact them.

Dismal Swamp

- The Dismal Swamp Commission met recently to discuss the determination of the metes and bounds of the properties contained within the Swamp. A formal survey needs to be conducted. It was discussed that if Middlesex County purchases some of the land, they will likely do the survey. Jennifer Maier would like the Borough to get a quote for a survey of Metuchen's portion. A meeting with South Plainfield should take place to ensure that South Plainfield's portion of the swamp gets ceded to the Commission. A compromise with South Plainfield may need to be reached. Jen Maier has a map of Metuchen's parcel that she will circulate.

Community Outreach

(Metuchen Fair)

- Information on composting bins to be provided. A bin will be raffled off.
- Jen Maier will purchase a rain barrel for demonstration.
- Grass clipping information will also be provided. A flyer should be produced that discusses the environmental benefits of mulching clippings.
- Commission members will take shifts.

Sustainable Jersey

- Orders for anti-idling signage have been placed. Anti-idling signs need the Borough's ordinance citation. Borough will include the citation with stickers on the signs. Participating schools will be included on the Borough's website and facebook page.
- Municipal garbage trucks at the recycling center should be encouraged to turn off engines when not in use.
- Next Green Teams meeting: Sept. 22.

Diversion of the Greenway

- PSE&G held a meeting to request public comment on proposed diversion on the Greenway during upgrades to electrical lines. At issue is whether the diversion can be done, and at what cost, and what would be considered adequate compensation for the diversion.

Planning Board

- Three redevelopment plans are currently in front of the Board: relocation of the firehouse, Gulton and Oakite.

New business

None.

Next meeting

Wednesday, October 21st at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Kelly