

**Minutes, Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission
February 17, 2016**

2016	JAN 20	FEB 17	MAR 16	APR 20	MAY 18	JUN 15	JUL 20	SEP 21	OCT 19	NOV 16
M. Herzberg, Chair D. Rasmussen, Liaison	A P	P P								
A. Dohl	M	A								M
J. Schaffer B. Weeks	A A	M P	M		M M					
Vacant A. Dutemple J. Kelly	- P A	- P P						M M M	M	

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

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

Reorganization

Dorothy called for nominations for Chair for 2016. A motion was made by J. Schaffer to nominate M. Herzberg, seconded by B. Weeks, all in attendance voting yea.

Visitors

The Commission has an impromptu visit from Corporal Ken Bauer, the Traffic Safety Officer. There was a discussion of Safe Pedestrian Crossings, Walking School Bus, and the new Safe Pedestrian campaign for March 2016. A concern was raised regarding operability of street lights, Public Works will be asked to check.

Officer Bauer noted that unsafe conditions can be reported by email to mpdtrafficsafety@yahoo.com, or a phone call to the MPD office number at 732-632-8500. Parking violations and snow removal complaints are best reported by phone so an officer can respond in a timely manner.

Minutes of January 2016 meeting

Minutes were approved.

Correspondence

1. Notice RE Land Conservation rally on March 18, 2016 in Trenton being held by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.
2. PSE&G notice of vegetation maintenance in underground and overhead rights-of-way.
3. Notice to officials, development of DJH Properties, LLC for wetlands permits at a lot on Liberty Street.
4. 5 issues of the DEP bulletin recently with nothing pertaining to Metuchen. The February 3rd issue referenced the sewer service area expansion at the Gulton Site.

Grant Update

A grant in the amount of \$25,000 was awarded to the Borough for the purchase of 500 food composters to be distributed to residents. It was suggested that metrics be developed for weighing the input and output as a pilot program. There will be a need to collect comments and issue reports as well as data, perhaps a summer intern can do this work. It was agreed that a fun way to orient residents is necessary.

Dismal Swamp

There was a discussion of wetlands and the Dismal Swamp commission. The Dismal Swamp was identified as a priority wetland in a 1994 EPA document. Although the exact edges of the Swamp are not clearly mapped due to scale, the general location and intent is clear.

Sustainable Jersey Update

1. Dorothy discussed the need to do “diversity survey” for Sustainable Jersey. The line item is to “Complete survey to assess diversity on key municipal boards and commissions.” This data will be compared to the Borough’s total population demographics.
2. Although Metuchen is cited as the example of Transit Oriented Development in the Sustainable Jersey application guidelines, the Borough still has to prepare a submission to take credit for the points on this item.
3. No further news on electric car chargers.

Greenway

No news. Also no update on the future potential PSE&G Greenway Expansion.

Potential Future Projects

There was a discussion of oil and gas transmission pipelines. Gas pipelines are under Federal Regulation, however, oil pipelines fall into a legal gray area. If the Borough wished to prevent new oil transmission lines from traversing the Borough, an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance may provide a legal means to do so. J. Schaffer will coordinate with B. Weeks and the Zoning Officer about updating the Ordinance language. This change would require Council review and approval.

Community Outreach

Planning Board

Old business

New business

Next meeting

Wednesday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Joseph Schaffer