

BOROUGH of METUCHEN
Environmental Commission
Minutes of the March 16, 2011 Regular Meeting

A meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission was held on Wednesday, March 16th 2011 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall. Present were:, Ann Sardone, Mark Herzberg, Chair, Tom Rudel, Steve Toth, Brian Weeks, Joe Schaffer, and Dorothy Rasmussen. Absent: Pat Donahue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. The minutes of the February 2011 meeting were approved with two corrections. The meeting in April was moved to 7:00PM on April 13th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Two items of relevance to Metuchen in the DEP bulletin were reviewed. One of the two items concerned toxins and clean up at 205 Liberty (in the industrial park). The other item concerned a proposed development by the Jehovah's Witness church. The DEP approved the flood plain exception for that project.

OLD BUSINESS

Earth Day: The events will take place on April 16th. DPW is in favor of the walk into the Dismal. A Centennial Park clean-up was also broached as an idea. People who have come out for Earth day will be given a choice as to what to do. The boy scouts, troop 216, would like to be involved in the walk and the clean up and mulching at Centennial Park. The day would begin with a ceremony at the trailhead. The greenway excursion would follow, from the trail head down to bridge over route 1 and visit the newly installed solar farm. People could either walk or bike down to the solar farm. The walkers will have some seedlings to plant. After lunch at the Community Center people and the scouts would go over the Centennial Park after lunch for the clean-up and mulching of the trails. Local officials will be invited. The event will be publicized in the schools and through the recreation commission.

Thomas Pond Park - There are two pumps (an aerator and a well). One of them is the well pump to circulate water in the pond working? It needs to be turned on. Dorothy will find out about it. Some discussion ensued about the possibility of putting barley bales into the Pond again.

Dog Park – nothing for this meeting.

Open Space - Dismal Swamp: Brian and Marc to meet with council people about possibly using wetlands mitigation funds to establish and/or improve wetlands. Some of these lands are titled to 'Metuchen Acquisitions', who had at one point been part of Gulton properties. Some wetlands expansion around Mill brook near the Myrtle fields might be possible.

Greenway: Marc discussed with Rick Leer of the county about doing a presentation to the county transportation committee about the transportation aspects of the Greenway extension.

Recycling: An electronic swap network as an equivalent of a virtual garage sale was discussed. We decided to continue with the neighborhood surveys to be sure that our numbers are reliable. We will discuss what to do at a future meeting when Pat is in attendance. Will the town centralize the collection to one day – merging paper and co-mingled – to save on labor costs? Curbside e-pick-up the Monday after the town wide garage sale, twice a year would be a possibility. Dorothy will ask about it.

Energy - Global Warming: Some spirited discussion occurred around the Japanese nuclear disaster.

Planning Commission: We are still waiting for the appointment of a liaison to keep us informed about their activities. Someone will be appointed at a meeting of the Planning Commission later this week.

Sustainable New Jersey – We met and came up with 110-140 points as work that we (the town of Metuchen) have already done. We need 150 points for bronze status. We decide to divide up the labor on this task, perhaps at the May meeting.

A general point was made that the members of the different commissions need to interact more. To this end, the chairs of the commissions could meet.

NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM. The next meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission will take place on April 13th, 2011 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall.

**Respectfully submitted,
Tom Rudel**

AGENDA

Metuchen Environmental Commission

April 2011

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Correspondence

Old Business

Earth Day

Thomas Park Pond

Dog Park

Open Space

Greenway

Dismal Swamp

Recycling

Energy - Global Warming

Sustainable New jersey

New Business