

**Minutes, Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission
April 20, 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	A	P	P	P						
D. Rasmussen, Liaison	P	P	P	P						
A. Dohl	M	A	P	P						M
J. Schaffer	A	M	M	P						
B. Weeks	A	P	P	M	M					
Vacant	-	-	-							
A. Dutemple	P	P	P	P		M			M	
J. Kelly	A	P	P	P			M	M		

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

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes of February and March 2016 meetings

Both sets of minutes approved with corrections.

Pipelines

The Borough Council has passed a resolution opposing the proposed “Pilgrim” oil pipeline. Many communities along its proposed route in New York and New Jersey have passed resolutions opposing this pipeline due to concerns about safety, leaks and the risk of irreparable damage to environmental resources including public and private property and water sources. The proposed pipeline route appears to pass through residential neighborhoods in the northeast corner of the Borough, near the high school, JFK Hospital and Roosevelt Park.

Discussion of amending the Borough Land Development Ordinance (see old business) to specifically address oil pipelines and similar infrastructure.

Environmental Commission

The Borough has appointed a new member of the Environmental Commission, Lynn Nowak, who will serve as our liaison to the Planning Board. We anticipate that Lynn will attend her first meeting with us in May.

Correspondence

- April 20 issue of the DEP Bulletin included an application for a freshwater wetlands letter of interpretation for proposed development on the former Cryan’s and Foodtown sites.

- March 23 and April 6 issues of the DEP bulletin had nothing pertaining to Metuchen.
- Letter received from ANJEC thanking us for renewing our membership.

Grant Update

DPW has almost completed building the raised bed garden project at Edgar School, funded by a generous grant from ANJEC.

Dismal Swamp

Informal kayak trip and trail clearing on Sat. April 30 at 9 a.m.

Sustainable Jersey Update

No News.

Greenway

No news.

Trails Grant

No news.

Potential Future Projects

Discussion of whether the Borough should regulate distribution of paper advertising materials, which often are left on driveways and sidewalks and then litter the streets and clog storm drains. A. Dutemple will look into what other municipalities have done.

Community Outreach

The April 16 composting workshop, organized by the Green Team at the Borough Improvement League, was very successful. Approximately 100 people attended, and over 50 ordered a composter. Composting videos made with two residents and at the April 16 event will be posted on the Borough web site.

Borough Administrator Jen Maier continues to receive orders for composters, which the Borough is supplying to Metuchen residents at no charge thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the NJ DEP. The workshop explained how to compost, and asked residents to report back to the Borough Administrator with data, photos, reports and other feedback on their use.

The Borough will hold its annual Earth Day event on Sat. April 23, with a cleanup in the park on Kentnor Avenue off Route 27.

Planning Board

See above regarding appointment of new member Kim Novak.

Old business

Discussion of amending the Borough Land Development Ordinance (see old business) to specifically address oil pipelines and similar infrastructure.

J. Schaffer and B. Weeks will provide suggestions to the Zoning Officer about updating the Ordinance language. Any change would require review and approval by the Borough attorney and Council.

New business

No News.

Next meeting

Wednesday, May 18 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Weeks