

**Minutes, Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission
March 16, 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							
D. Rasmussen, Liaison	P	P	P							
A. Dohl	M	A	P							M
J. Schaffer	A	M	M							
B. Weeks	A	P	P	M	M					
Vacant	-	-	-							
A. Dutemple	P	P	P			M			M	
J. Kelly	A	P	P				M	M		

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

Dorothy called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes of February 2016 meeting

Minutes were approved with corrections.

Visitors

The Commission had a visit from Matt Smith from Food and Water Watch (F&WW).

Matt spoke about F&WW's campaign to stop the Pilgrim Pipeline. The proposed pipeline is controversial and there is a fair amount of opposition to the project. F&WW is asking communities to pass resolutions to block construction of the pipeline. It appears that the pipeline routing will enter the northeast corner of the Borough and have an impact on schools and JFK Hospital.

There was a discussion about the Environmental Commission asking the Council to pass a resolution to oppose the pipeline.

Matt will send a model ordinance and resolution to J. Maier to review. Opposition to the pipeline could also be provided by amendment to the Land Development Ordinance (see old business).

Correspondence

1. February 17th issue of the DEP Bulletin included DJH Properties application. A letter from the Borough was drafted and set in response to the DEP contact listed on the application.

2. March 3rd issue of the DEP bulletin had nothing pertaining to Metuchen.

Grant Update

ANJEC has a grant available for open space oriented projects. J Maier will write a grant application. There was a discussion about a mapping and parcels project.

Dismal Swamp

No News.

Sustainable Jersey Update

No News.

Greenway

No news.

Potential Future Projects

No News.

Community Outreach

Earth Day is April 22nd this year.

The Green Team discussed organizing an Earth Day activity around composting. There was a discussion of timing with other events going on in town. Event was scheduled for April 16th, will take place at the Borough Improvement League. There was also a discussion about Campbell School starting a garden and potential composting at that site.

Planning Board

There was a discussion about appointing a Planning Board Liaison to the Environmental Commission; however, there was no firm decision on the matter.

Old business

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.

New business

No News.

Next meeting

Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joseph Schaffer