

**Minutes, Meeting of the Metuchen Environmental Commission
May 18, 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 | P | | | | | |
| D. Rasmussen, Liaison | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | |
| A. Dohl | M | A | P | P | P | | | | | M |
| J. Schaffer | A | M | M | P | A | | | | | |
| B. Weeks | A | P | P | M | M | | | | | |
| Lynn Nowak | - | - | - | | | | | | | |
| A. Dutemple | P | P | P | P | P | M | | | M | |
| J. Kelly | A | P | P | P | A | | 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 April 2016 meeting

The minutes were 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 soon attend her first meeting with us.

Correspondence

- May 4 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.

Grant Update

DPW has 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 held on Sat. April 30 at 9 a.m. Trail cleared for about a mile downstream from Greenway extension. Some fallen tree snags, shallow mud banks and several large truck tires could allow mosquito breeding. Agreed to reach out to County Mosquito Commission and request limited stream clearing to reduce potential mosquito breeding areas.

South Plainfield has appointed its representative to the Dismal Swamp Commission.

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 discussed her research into what other municipalities have done. Dorothy will inquire into the Borough's current municipal ordinances and permit requirements for distributing printed materials.

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 have been posted on the Borough web site. Environmental Commission members will present composting and composters at teh Farmers' Market on Saturday June 25.

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, by e-mailing jmaier@metuchen.com. Over 250 residents have ordered a composter to date.

The Borough held its annual Earth Day event on Sat. April 23, with several activities in the park on Kentnor Avenue off Route 27. An old bocce court was removed, brush that had encroached on the grass field was cut back, trash was removed, and preparations were made to build raised beds for a community garden.

Planning Board

See above regarding appointment of new member Lynn Nowak.

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 provided suggestions about updating the Ordinance language. Any change would require review and approval by the Borough attorney and Council. Dorothy will followup.

New business

Discussion of complete and safe streets planning sessions and problematic areas. B. Weeks will forward Environmental Commission suggestions to Councilman Jay Muldoon.

Next meeting

Wednesday, June 15 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Weeks