

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013; 7:30 PM
Pequannock Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room

A) Call to Order 7:36pm

B) Roll Call

1) Members (Present/Absent):

a) Chair: Tom Newman *present*

b) Secretary: Tom Andrea *present*

c) Open Space Liaison: Rudy Steinthal *absent*

d) Planning Board Liaison: Philip Dickenson *present*

e) Jeff Mauriello *present*

f) Ron Baran *absent*

g) Tom Murphy *present*

h) Alternate #1: Ralph DiBuono *present*

i) Council Liaison: Melissa Florance-Lynch *present*

C) Public Comments (list those in attendance)

1) *Matt Colombo, from Pequannock, pHD, Rutgers*

a) *Interested in being a member of the EC*

2) *James Preisendanz, Americorps Watershed Ambassador; 1 month left in term*

a) *Terms July 1-June 30 but usually terms start mid September, ends mid July; they need to have 3 presentations; also some bio testing*

b) *Often activity peaks late in term; many members are teachers*

c) *Presentations cover a variety of topics, many used by teachers; most use the enviroscape*

D) Special Presentations

E) Approval of Meeting Minutes – 5/8/2013 *Jeff motioned, Phil seconded*

F) Correspondence (M – Mail, E – Email)

1) M2013-010

a) From – Ranger Paul

b) Date – 05/2013

c) Subject – Ranger Report

d) Action – FYI

e) Details – Some of Ranger Paul's activities for May

2) M2013-011

a) From – Morris County Mosquito Extermination Commission

b) Date – 5/16/2013

c) Subject – FYI, they are applying for NJDEP permits

- d) Action – None
 - e) Details – Countywide, Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit 1 and Flood Hazard Act General Permit 4
 - f) *Should the EC be notified prior to any pesticide application? Some on the EC say yes. Tom N said a program would involve public education and we can help that if the Mosquito Commission would like. Melissa will contact the M.C. about this.*
- 3) M2013-012
- a) From – Pequannock Township Board of Adjustment
 - b) Date – 5/22/2013
 - c) Subject – 28 East Garden, Pompton Plains
 - d) Action – Comments sought
 - e) Details – A Use, bulk, site and flood plain variance application
“Small modification to the building (adding a door), parking, outside storage of equipment.”
 - f) *Comment #1: Insufficient time was provided to comment on these plans, as they were submitted and comments sought between EC monthly meetings.*
 - g) *Comment #2: The EC suggests that the Planning Board should have been copied due to the variances sought.*
 - h) *Comment #3: (Permission for non-permitted existing, as well as expanded, outdoor storage use, is sought.) The EC sees no compelling reason to grant a variance, as this site is located in an environmentally sensitive (flood plain) area, and even legitimizing, much less expanding storage uses in this area is not in the Township’s best interest.*
- 4) M2013-013
- a) From – Pequannock River Coalition
 - b) Date – June 2013
 - c) Subject – The Pequannock Post Newsletter
 - d) Action – FYI
 - e) Details – Spring Hike Recap, Annual Awards, River Float (June 30), River Recovery, Final Year for Siphon on West Brook.
- 5) M2013-014
- a) From – The Alliance for Morris County Parks
 - b) Date – 5/17/2013
 - c) Subject – Grant
 - d) Action – Not enough time to apply
 - e) Details – Applications for grant were due 5/29.
- 6) E2013-003
- a) From – Linda Zacharenko, LZacharenko@Pegtwp.org , Township Planning & Zoning Office Secretary

- b) To – tandraea@att.com
- c) Date – 5/20/2013
- d) Subject – Proposed Genuine Biofuel of New Jersey, LLC, biofuel production, research and development facility at Lincoln Park Airport.
- e) Action – I could not attend the meeting but I sent the below questions:

1. How will waste produced in the production of biodiesel be handled?
2. How will the production of biodiesel impact safety, traffic on local roads and quality of life in the area.
3. In the state of Washington, Air Energy, a biodiesel-crushing plant was warned by the state Department of Ecology that the company has committed an "egregious" violation of state air-quality laws by emitting toxic methanol vapors without a permit. Is there any chance that your operation might adversely affect air quality?
4. Also at that Air Energy plant in Washington there are issues with spills. Is there any chance of spills or anything that you do at your biodiesel operation affecting the soil or the ground water?
5. Could there be any noise issues because of your operation?

- f) Details – Genuine Biofuel of New Jersey, LLC, with regard to their application presently pending before the Lincoln Park Planning Board seeking site plan approval so as to transform two (2) hangar buildings at the Lincoln Park Airport into a biofuel production, research and development facility.

g) *Comments:*

1. *Is this basically a "blending" facility without waste produced.*
2. *Tanker trucks: 3 in/ 3 out every day expected. 3 MG per year produced.*
3. *This is a 24x7 operation.*
4. *We'd like to get more information on this.*

7) E2013-004

- a) From – colombo.matt@gmail.com; on behalf of; Matt Colombo <mcolombo@eden.rutgers.edu>
- b) To – ptec@peqtwp.org
- c) Date – 6/9/2013
- d) Subject – Interest in becoming an Environmental Commission Member
- e) Action – Responded that he is welcome to our June meeting.

- f) Details – Matt emailed with Interest in becoming an Environmental Commission Member, Tom A responded that he is welcome to our June meeting. He was also told detail on how to get to our meeting, Police entrance on side of building, second floor, conference room at end of hall.
- G) Budget Report (Tom A.)
 - Balance - \$650*
- H) Chairperson's Report (Tom N.)
 - 1) Jeff Keller answered Tom N's request for a hike. *Nocturnal sounds are an option.*
- I) Town Council Liaison Report (Melissa)
 - 1) *Street Fair success!*
 - a) *But, request a full booth next year!*
 - b) *Our recycled pencils have been misplaced (they should be somewhere in the Muni building)*
 - 2) *Green Sky – shred day possibly November 9th*
 - 3) *Town received Smart Growth Award for Riverwalk*
 - 4) *Village Area Sewers – bids are out; potential for PV school to be hooked up.*
 - 5) *Blending – may be fully operational now – mix is 25% Newark Water and 75% well water – makes water softening less of an issue (hardness is down 45%)*
 - 6) *New town engineer is in the swing of things, now costing out the walkable communities project;*
 - 7) *Washington Park contaminants being paid for by insurance*
 - 8) *West Franklin improvements – water mains, curbs and sidewalks*
 - 9) *On High School side, across from Chilton will be 34 parking spaces for High School.*
- J) Planning Board Liaison Report (Philip)
 - 1) *At last hearing on Chilton Project, board approved with a few variances and redone various aspects of the projects. The traffic study needs to be redone. Phase 1 front medical building and auxiliary building will begin this summer (10-yr project).*
 - 2) *Sign application for A&P shopping center, Stop and Shop sign.*
- K) Open Space Liaison Report (Rudy) absent
- L) Business
 - 1) Ditch/Flood Gate inspections -
 - 2) Mayor's River Clean Up (Rudy) –
 - a) *Proposed 2014 River cleanup: Saturday, April 5th 2014*
 - 3) PV Park water quality/clarity –
 - a) *More ducks are coming to PV Park and ducks are not easily scared away like geese. Strobe has been purchased per Melissa's report above*

and is being used in the swim lanes were there is a big problem of ducks and geese landing on the docks and making a mess.

4) Street Fair - Sunday, June 9 from

<http://www.jcpromotions.info/pages/schedule.html> website.

a) *Problem, we were assigned ½ booth and we need a full booth. Since we were there near start of setup we just took our required area.*

b) *Street Fair went extremely well! Our volunteers were great.*

c) *One young man who played the Recycle Game said it was “fun”! People needed to “hawked” to play game but once they played, they liked it! Used a very quick method of “pick a card, any card” and then they tried to place the card in the proper location for the proper disposal of the item on the card they picked. A very good amount of “I didn’t know that occurred”. Some of the best results were when each member of a group picked a card and we looked at everyone’s disposal choices.*

d) *Our giveaway pencils could not be found, Melissa saved the day and supplied us with candy as a give away item. That was an excellent giveaway item!*

5) Ho-Down - September 21, 2013 (Saturday) 11am-5pm, Rain Date - September 22

6) Walkable Communities Workshop Program

a) *Once our new engineer and Council have had a chance to review the plans we can go over the plans.*

7) Grants

a) *Jeff submitted ANJEC Stewardship Grant – (80 hours in kind from EC and Township volunteered)*

8) Ordinances or Resolutions

a) *Tom A will be working on one related to the Threatened and Endangered Species Workshop he took. Emailed a sample ordinance we can discuss.*

9) Green Team:

a) *Needs members – Matt is interested.*

10) ANJEC Training - new one coming up on streams but far away location; may wait until a later.

11) Bio Blitz, could we do one at Woodland Lake??? Example:

<http://web.uconn.edu/mnh/bioblitz/>

12) Environmental Clubs in schools, Tom A. Advisor.

a) *North Boulevard School*

1. *Project: Collect plastic bottle caps. 300 lbs total!*

2. *Project: Build birdhouses.*

b) *Hillview School*

1. Project: Create artwork using recycled items.

c) SJ Gerace School

1. Project: Family Fun Night.

M) Action Items:

All:

1) Stream inspections.

1) Website: Compile list of websites and internet links to include.

2) Town Newsletter:

3) Ideas for 2013

a) Website update, including links to a variety of topics

b) Presentation – at library and/or at Cedar Crest?

c) Hike with Jeff Keller

4) Add Water Blending to ERI.

Tom Newman:

1) Review stream-inspection reports completed since last submittal. When complete, submit the new reports to Council. Ongoing – working toward summer completion/presentation to Planning Board. Phil suggests July, Tom N to reach out to Linda Z for scheduling in July.

2) Ask Joe Golden, 835.5700 x188 jgolden@pegtwp.org engineer if township has the information on the storm water infrastructure as required by the MS4 permits, including Catch Basins, culverts, or other storm water infrastructure around town – current equipment (cameras, for example) automatically get GIS coordinates and would be suitable for GIS. The EC will be happy to assist in the process.

3) Conduct a “Day in the Life of a Water Droplet in Pequannock” for the scouts.

4) Make a list of the reports that have been done.

Melissa Florance-Lynch:

1) Talk to Council, Dave about paving issue recommendation by EC for designated area for paving leftover asphalt temporary storage – done – Dave said procedures in place already.

2) Call Green Sky about shred day – did that – Nov 9 is tentative

3) Sign up EC for Street Fair. *Done but next year request a full booth.*

4) Sewer extension info about 23 crossover to east side – there will be a meeting on the Village sewers but date not set yet.

5) Can Morris County Mosquito Commission let Environmental Commission know when they will be doing work in town?

Thomas Andrea:

- 1) Do stream report for Glens area walked with Tom Newman:
http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=470637 .
- 2) Status of \$500 “Litter Free Grant” application from Morris County.
- 3) Reach out to Watershed Ambassador. *Called and left a message for our “Watershed Management Area 3”, Watershed Ambassador James Preisendanz. His email is ambassador@passaiccountynj.org and his phone is 973 -569 -4055.*

Rudy Steinthal:

- 1) Blue line listing for checklist (name streams), using files from Tom N.

Philip Dickinson:

Jeff Mauriello:

Ron Baran:

Tom Murphy:

- 1) Review Tom N’s ideas RE website changes.

N) General Calendar

September 21, 2013 (Saturday) 11am-5pm, Rain Date - September 22
October 19, 2013, MCMUA Household Hazardous Waste Pick-up Day

O) Adjournment 9:31pm Phil motions, Tom N seconds!

Mission Statement

We represent the public and its long-term interests as local environmental advocates. We work towards these goals by: advising the town council and the planning and zoning boards about a wide range of environmental issues that affect the town; advocating for open-space preservation; keeping residents informed of environmental issues; promoting environmental education; and working with neighboring commissions and other organizations to meet these goals.