

Harrison Township Environmental Commission
114 Bridgeton Pike
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
Phone: 856-478-4111
November 4, 2009
Minutes

Approved at the Environmental Commission Meeting on February 3, 2010

Page 1 of 4

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The monthly regular meeting of the Harrison Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:34 pm on November 4, 2009, at the Harrison Township Municipal Building, Luke Oman, Vice Chairman being in the chair.

The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read.

Pledge of Allegiance:

(Remember the men and women protecting us in the armed forces)

Present: Doris Brady, Sam Zappala, Stan Hershey, Phil Rhudy, Kevin Riefenstahl, Don Heim, Luke Oman

Absent: Phil Grous, Adrienne Roberto, Victoria Gaunt

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Brian Horne, President, Stag's Leap Landfill Redevelopment Project, Mullica Hill, NJ, discussed the progress of the landfill project. Big challenges arose with the landfill and the engineering. Slope issues were discussed.

Mr. Horne explained the demonstration project which is part of the landfill and the underlying waste to keep it from entering onto Howard Pennell's property. The use of cages known as terraces with fresh clean residential fill is emplaced on a synthetic material known as a geo-grid and then covered with a form of hydro-matting. Mr. Horne passed around pictures of the landfill before and after. These pictures showed the progress of the terraces.

Part of the original landfill boundary extended onto Mr. Pennell's and Mr. Smith's property. Mr. Horne has agreed to close the landfill on both properties.

Mr. Horne advised there is a possible shortage of soil (approximately 2 million tons) which is used to seal the landfill. The site has already used a million tons.

What will the maintenance program be after the landfill is closed? The requirement is to monitor the property for 30 years. This closure plan is the most comprehensive in New Jersey. NJDEP visits the site every month and quarterly reports are filed. Once the site is closed there will be annual reports filed with the NJDEP.

Mr. Horne assured the Environmental Commission that he believes he is in full compliance with all NJDEP concerns at the landfill. Mr. Horne assured Stan Hershey

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Page 2 of 4

=====
that, Pennoni Engineering and the onsite NJDEP personnel or inspectors, to date no objections had been raised and he had tacit approval to proceed.

The newest phase of the project emanated from discussions between Mr. Horne, the impacted landowners and Gloucester County Soil and Board of Health personnel. Mr. Horne has undertaken this additional phase of the closing, and began the project with the support of the aforementioned parties and/or government entities.

The NJDEP retains overall inspection and oversight duties, yet if the County should require additional safeguards such as the terrace wall; none of these improvements are made without full cooperation between NJDEP, Gloucester County and the developer, Mr. Brian Horne.

Public Attendance:

Mr. and Mrs. William & Jennifer Pennell – 289 Bridgeton Pike, Mullica Hill, NJ.

The Pennell's are concerned with the soil being hauled onto the landfill site. The Pennell's are seeing plastic, wood, and other debris in the soil. The soil that is being hauled into the landfill includes "c" and "d" grade (construction and demolition) and fly ash. The NJDEP has issued an approval to use both soils.

Another concern of the Pennell's is the possibility of any leachable material entering their drinking water. Mr. Horne stated he is following the NJDEP Site clean up standards as specified.

Mrs. Jennifer Pennell stated there is an odor from her well (185 feet) water. The Pennell's had their water tested and all reports are satisfactory. Mr. Horne also commented that his water on his own residential property had an odor. Mr. Horne had a new well dug (350-380 feet) and this seems to have solved the problem.

Mr. Horne asked the Pennell's if they would like to sample his water from his new well. The two arranged to meet to obtain a sample. Mr. Horne suggested to the Pennell's to have a new well dug. Mr. Horne explained that the ground water from the landfill flows away from the Pennell's home.

Another concern of the Pennell's is the truck noise at all hours of the day and night. Mr. Horne advised he will address this issue.

The Commission thanked both parties for sharing their concerns and solutions.

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Page 3 of 4

=====

Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Doris Brady to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded by Sam Zappala and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Communications - Mail/Phone:

A letter sent to the Environmental Commission was reviewed by members in attendance. Luke Oman summarized the mail received since the last meeting.

1. Adrienne Roberto sent a resignation letter due to other commitments.

Site Plans:

Site Plan sub-committee, Doris Brady and Sam Zappala

No site plans were received to review.

Public Information Projects:

1. Environmental Commission Shirt Order - Phil Grous to place order.
2. Landfill – Ad-Hoc Committee – Don Heim – Received another letter of interest and will interview by year end. This would bring the total to 3 people.
3. NJEC workshop – Luke Oman scheduled 2 workshops for November 18th at 7:30pm. The workshops are: Municipal Actions to Foster sustainability and Gorilla Marketing for Environmental Commissions. Everyone will be able to attend the workshops except Don Heim due to a previous engagement.
4. CFL and e-waste disposal program – Phil Rhudy is working on a speaker for the December meeting
5. Tree Planting Project – Sam Zappala is obtaining further information
6. Mullica Hill Pond Ad-Hoc Committee – Don Heim – Next meeting scheduled for December 16, 2009. At the October 12, 2009 meeting, discussions consisted of possibly a walking trail, picnic tables and recreational activities.
7. “To Bee or Not To Bee” - Vicky Gaunt - Will discuss at the next meeting.
8. Bats – Kevin Riefenstahl - Will email the Commission his article.
9. Disposal of Pharmaceuticals – Phil Grous will discuss at next meeting. Information is also in the Gloucester County recycling guide.
10. Harrison Township Day – So far we have only one volunteer to help organize our presentation for Harrison Township Day, Victoria Gaunt. Are there any other volunteers?

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Page 4 of 4

=====

Other Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Members whose terms expire in December 2009 must reapply if they want to continue service. Don Heim will obtain the expiration information and forward to the Commission. The Township Committee needs the Environmental Commission's recommendation before year end.

At the next meeting (December 2, 2009), a vote is required for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Environmental Commission for 2010.

Kevin Riefenstahl can not make the December meeting but would like to be reappointed if his term expires.

Reports from Committee Representative:

1. Planning Board – Doris Brady – Nothing to report.
2. Township Committee – Don Heim will be serving on the Environmental Commission for at least 3 more years.

Public Comments:

No comments

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Environmental Commission is December 2, 2009.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Doris Brady made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Phil Rhudy; all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.