

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

Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2007

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Present: Phil Grous, Stanley Hershey, Luke Oman, Janet Gibbons, Doris Brady, Phil Rhudy

The monthly meeting of the Harrison Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on November 7, 2007 at the Harrison Township Municipal Building, the Commissioner, Phil Grous, being in the chair.

Public Attendance: None

Janet Gibbons advised that the Planning Board has issued a request for proposals for an independent environmental expert to review closure documents and testing results of the Harris Landfill. Proposals must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 11/09/07. The request for proposals can be accessed on the Township's website at www.harrisontwp.us

The final decision regarding landfill closure lies with the DEP.

Janet also advised that no issues had been raised at the Planning Board meeting regarding a septic ordinance. Stan believes that the nitrate solution system was previously recommended.

Stan Hershey confirmed that Mill Race Farms is under the protection of the Non-Game and Endangered Species Program / Endangered and Non-Game Species Conservation Act, which actually provides more protection for this area than an NHP designation. However, further investigation will be taking place to determine if the areas both North and South of Main Street are included. The Environmental Commission continues to research the 322 Bypass issue re: Natural Heritage Site / Mill Race Farms and will comment to the Planning Board when the additional information is obtained.

Phil Grous noted that the Planning Board will be holding a public hearing on 11/15/07 at 7:30 p.m. to conduct a re-examination of the Land Use Element of the Township Master Plan to examine zoning in the Richwood area and Route 77 corridor. These two proposed amendments can be accessed on the Township's website at www.harrisontwp.us

Leslie McGeoch provided updates via e-mail as follows:

1. The Mullica Hill Pond Committee expects to meet in early December. Princeton Hydro would be available to present and discuss the data collected on this project which includes the bathymetry, fishery survey, water quality testing, water quality model results and more. Luke Oman found what appears to be an excellent opportunity for the Township to apply for a grant from the DEP to develop trails and trail facilities around the Pond. The Township Committee has been made aware of this opportunity and will be discussing it at the Nov. 19 work session.

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Luke confirmed that he will be filling out the grant.

2. The Historic Preservation Commission sent correspondence to the Freeholders, stating concern about the impact on areas on parts of the proposed 322 Bypass. The areas of concern are the Routes 322 and 45 intersection which is under a State Historic District review and the Richwood section concerning Richwood Methodist Church which is on the State and National History Registers.
3. An update on whether the ERI/Open Space & Recreation Plan have been put on the Master Plan will be provided.

The following mail was received by the EC Commission:

1. 19 letters of transmittal from Pennoni Associates, Inc., to the Township regarding Fill Material Acceptability were received. Some of those letters stated that samples were in excess of DEP limits but did fall within the limits of AFAC. Stan will be researching this issue and Phil Grous will contact Angelo Fatiga of Pennoni Associates on this issue as well.
2. 09/20/07 letter from Pennoni Associates to Harrison Township Mayor regarding the analytical data package – Marine Terminal 17.
3. Site plans from the Planning Board for Haddon Pediatric Group (Block 46, Lot 4)
4. 10/18/07 from NJDEP to the Construction Clerk re site plan Richwood wetlands easements
5. 10/22/07 Request for Government Records, Block 49, Lot 6 wetlands.
6. 10/24/07 RJP Homes Environmental Impact Statement for site (Block 45, Lot 16)

Site plan reviews:

1. Block 45, Lot 16 (Swedesboro Road) – This project is currently inactive, however, if it should come before the Planning Board in the future, this Commission would like clarification on two sections of the Environmental Impact Statement - Section 2.7 (disturbance to wildlife habitation in existing woodlands) and section 4.3 (wetlands migration).
2. Block 46, Lot 4 – Route 322 and Tomlinson Station Road – regarding Lot 4.03. The Commission has no objections to these plans.

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Phil Grous and Doris Brady presented the budget which they prepared with the assistance of Carole Rieck. Phil and Doris will formalize the budget for submission to the Township.

A motion was made by Janet Gibbons for approval of the September, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded by Luke Oman and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Doris Brady to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Janet Gibbons. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.