



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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Minutes of Regular Meeting
Shrewsbury Environmental Commission (EC)
Wednesday, October 14, 2009
Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

Present

Jill Gwydir, Chairperson
Patrick DiBello, Member (PB Liaison)
Sue Binns, Member
Jay Eaton, Member
Leslie Eaton, Member
Deidre Derasadourian, Alternate Member #1
Hermann Allen, Associate Member *
Jeff DeSalvo, Associate Member *

Absent

Patricia Kurdyla, Member
Kathy Loder-Murphy, Alternate Member #2
Robin Blair, Associate Member *
Don Burden, Council Liaison *

* Non-voting member

Chairperson Jill Gwydir began the meeting at 7:37 p.m. by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and reading the Presiding Officer's statement in compliance with P.L. 1975 c.231, the Open Public Meetings Act. Roll call was taken by Mrs. Milnes.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER'S MEETING

Ms. Binns made a motion to approve September's meeting minutes. Dr. DiBello seconded the motion.

II. REVIEW OF ZONING AND PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS/SITE PLANS

Zoning Board – Mrs. Milnes was present at October's ZB meeting and gave update:

- Maple Drive project – Plans call for construction of a single family home on narrow piece of property. Impervious coverage is within limits but ZB is concerned with increased run-off which will drain down roadway to Meadow Dr. ZB has asked developer to "tweak" plans by reducing square footage of dwelling.

Planning Board – With the resignation of Dr. DiBello from PB, Ms. Gwydir recommends Mrs. Derasadourian become full member of EC and act as liaison to PB. Mrs. Derasadourian will think about offer and respond back to Ms. Gwydir.

- Due to a conflict of interest involving Ms. Gwydir's job, she will excuse herself from any discussion on K. Hovnanian project.

III. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Update from Councilman Menapace

- **Fort Monmouth's Restoration Advisory Board** – Ms. Gwydir and Councilman DeNofa attended October 7th meeting in Mr. Menapace's absence. According to

Ms. Gwydir, most of remediation is complete. This includes 3 creeks (Parker's Creek is one), and 4 to 5 sites. When remediation is 100% complete, water testing will take place. Dr. DiBello and Mr. DeSalvo recommend testing aquifers and groundwater. EC is concerned with remediation affecting flow of Parker's Creek thereby causing flooding on Shrewsbury's side. Ms. Gwydir reports that studies show this is not a threat. Next meeting is scheduled for January 14th but Mr. Menapace will get interim updates. He suggests an EC member and Council member attend meetings with him. Ms. Gwydir will attend as EC representative.

- **DPW Report** – EC members were e-mailed copies of report prior to meeting. Report is critical of solid waste collection (bulk pick-up) and recycling. Report suggests Boro go to an outside vendor for recycling pick-up. Boro is going out for bids for garbage contract in December and will allow bidders to include recycling pick-up in bid. Report suggests co-mingling of all recyclables, i.e. newspaper, mixed paper, cans and glass, and plastic to be picked up twice/month on Wednesday. The projected plan will result in elimination of two DPW positions as well as selling off recycling truck. Even if recycling is kept in-house, changes will occur.
- **Bulk Pick-Up** – Report recommends reducing bulk pick-up to 4/year, March, July, September and December. There will be no winter pick-up so as not to interfere with snow removal.
- **Sola Tubes** – Plans for installing sola tubes has been dropped due to “no capital spending” edict from Council. Existing lighting is very efficient; Boro would not receive paybacks for nine years and therefore, not be eligible for state aid.
- **Manson Park** – As park matures, vegetation has become dense. Trees must be trimmed and path must be widened. Blue cinder will be used from now on as original red cinder is not always available and must be purchased in large quantities. Strip of plantings near Rt. 35 is being addressed. Some foliage will be removed as well as junk trees. Burm will be lowered. Mr. Menapace will check with Ms. Blair to make sure particular favorites of her mother, Dorothy Blair Manson are not removed.
- B. Chair Report** – Ms. Gwydir discussed resolution urging citizens to vote “yes” on green acres water supply flood protection. She will forward resolution to Council liaison Don Burden who will decide if it should be forwarded to Council.
 - Ms. Gwydir attended two additional meetings this month. The Environmental Summit for District 11 discussed LNG Islands and Fort Monmouth. The Environmental Partnership meeting discussed “Sustainable NJ.” Is this something EC should pursue? Ms. Gwydir will look further into this.
- C. Website** – Website looks great thanks to Mr. DeSalvo's updates. EC will include blurb about updated site in next newsletter. Mr. DeSalvo feels residents are looking for recycling schedule. Carbon footprint information will be left off until EC finds out if grant request has been approved.
- D. Newsletter** – Next deadline is December 10th. Mrs. Eaton will include website update, recycling changes, and Electronic Recycling Day.
- E. Council Meeting** – Ms. Binns reports that extending walking trails at Manson Park has been put on hold due to budgetary constraints. Traffic study group is in preliminary stage. Boro will be included in Scenic By-Way project with four sites. There was debate among Council members whether to allow dogs in parks. Councilman Keegan, liaison to Parks and Recreation, is against dogs in parks. Council will study surrounding communities and continue discussion at future meeting.

Action: EC will write letter to Council recommending certain conditions be met if dogs are allowed: Leash required, bio-degradable waste bags be available, and enforcement of clean-up.

- F. Battery Recycling** – Ms. Gwydir reported on recent findings stating batteries no longer need special handling. Mercury level is low and process to transport batteries to recycling center is costly. This will be included on website and in newsletter.
- G. Environmental Club** – Ms. Gwydir and Ms. Binns reported on first meeting. Upcoming events include “Walk-to-School Wednesday’s,” participation in COA’s beach sweep, and a “Green Idea” contest with winners displaying idea at Earth Day Fair both at Municipal Complex and SBS. There is no club report from “Green Team.”
- H. Rain Garden** – Mr. MacConnell is still interested in having a rain garden on school property. Mrs. Milnes is no longer in position to coordinate project.
Action: Ms. Gwydir will check with Ms. Blair to see if Garden Club is interested in taking on rain garden project.
- I. K. Hovnanian Development** – Ms. Gwydir excused herself from discussion by removing herself from meeting room. Mrs. Derasadourian studied environmental report and found lead in soil as well as high levels of arsenic. She has asked for a land history report which may explain high arsenic level. EC questions whether we should ask if certain tests have been done. EC will forward concerns to Boro engineer, Dave Cranmer.
- J. Scenic By-Way** – Upon Ms. Gwydir’s return, Mr. Eaton briefed EC on Scenic By-Way meeting. Five sites will be included in county’s Scenic By-way: Christ Church, Allen House, Historical Society, Presbyterian Church and Quaker Meeting House.
- K. Next Meeting** – Mrs. Milnes brought it to EC’s attention that November’s meeting is scheduled for Veteran’s Day, November 11th. Should EC consider switching meeting to either Nov. 10th or Nov. 12?
Action: Mrs. Milnes will see if Meeting Room is available. Ms. Gwydir will poll EC members for best date.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Eaton made a motion to adjourn meeting at 10:30 pm. Ms. Binns seconded motion.

Susan Milnes, Secretary