

# BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



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Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Shrewsbury Environmental Commission (EC)  
Wednesday, May 14, 2008  
Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

### Present

Kristina Latimer, Chairperson  
Sue Binns, Member  
Patrick DiBello, Member (PB Liaison)  
Stella Fotopoulos, Member (8:00 p.m.)  
Cecilia Kodama, Associate Member \*  
Robin Blair, Associate Member\*  
Hermann Allen, Associate Member \*  
Don Burden (Council Liaison)\*

### Absent

Jill Gwydir, Member  
Douglas Hartmann, (ZB Liaison)  
Patricia Kurdyla, Member  
Christine Gallagher, Alternate Member #1

\* Non-voting member

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Chairperson Latimer began the meeting at 7:44 p.m. by reading 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 APRIL'S MEETING

Dr. DiBello made a motion to approve April's meeting minutes. Mrs. Latimer seconded the motion.

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

**Planning Board** – Dr. DiBello reported there are no environmental concerns at this time.

**Zoning Board** – Mr. Hartmann not here to report.

### III. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**A. Council Meeting** - Mrs. Kodama reported that at April 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting, purchase of additional recycling containers was approved and will be paid for by Clean Communities Grant. Mr. Burden reported on discussion about EC's suggestion of using a porous sidewalk as an alternative to concrete sidewalks. Borough engineer, Dave Cranmer has concerns; he feels type of soil will impact effectiveness. He also informed Council that certain type of porous sidewalk must be vacuumed quarterly. Mr. Cranmer will prepare report detailing concerns.

Mayor Siciliano commended EC and DPW for working together to effectively purchase additional recycling containers for borough parks and fields. Mayor Siciliano also praised efforts of EC for Recycling Day.

Ms. Binns attended May 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting; there were no environmental concerns.

Mayor Siciliano has requested EC to submit article to ANJEC reporting on Electronic/Recycling Day and recycling container program. She will add more information on what borough is doing to “go green.”

**B. Electronic/Recycling** – Ms. Binns reported following statistics:

- 180 cars came to drop off items (95 cars in 2007, 53% increase)
- 25 additional cars were counted that did not drop off recyclables.
- 596 items were dropped off (469 items in 2007)
- 9,216 lbs. of recycled material was collected (11,068 collected in 2007)

Ms. Binns questions why weight of collected material is less this year. She will investigate.

Mrs. Latimer reported that environmental booths under tent were well attended. All 75 prepared passports were handed out by 11:00 a.m. 68 florescent light bulbs were given to people who signed energy pledge. RBR’s Environmental Club was well received. Environmentally friendly landscaper reported to Dr. DiBello he received three new customers as a result of participating in event. It was suggested that a scrapbook be put together showing photos of event and recycling statistics. This can be shown to area merchants when soliciting donations in years to come. Was car display worth while? Perhaps next year, sales people can have material to hand out and more signage on vehicles. Mrs. Kulovitz’s kindergarten class had highest participation rate.

**C. Recycling Containers at DPW** – There is a general consensus that existing containers are not accurately labeled, leading to confusion among residents and improper disposal of material. Mrs. Fotopoulos spoke with county recycling representative, Tom Olsen, who will come to DPW and assess situation. Mr. Burden suggests that a meeting be held with himself, Mrs. Latimer and Council member John McGuire to enhance services at DPW, from there, perhaps a meeting between Mr. Burden, Mr. Olsen, Bob Wentway, and an EC representative.

**D. Recycling and Garbage Receptacles**

48 receptacles have been ordered with hopes of delivery date prior to Fire Department’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**E. SBS Environmental Club and Green Team Report**

- Mrs. Gallagher not here to report.
- Ms. Binns reported that members of Environmental Club designed and created mosaic of plastic bottle tops which was displayed at Recycling Day. There is one more meeting before end of school year; club will work on putting together a pledge to use proper receptacles at borough parks and fields. Club members will walk around fields handing out pledges and raise recycling awareness.

**F. Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal**

Mrs. Fotopoulos toured county facility where light bulbs are disposed of. Mr. Alan Fortier feels a recycling container for florescent light bulbs is doable at DPW. Major concern though is when light bulbs break prior to getting into recycling container. It is a very costly clean-up. Each container costs \$72.00. A container can hold 90+ bulbs. Mrs. Latimer is going to check with her contact in Spring Lake about broken bulbs, as well as long florescent tubes brought in by commercial business owners (tubes should be disposed of at owner’s expense).

Mr. Allen asked why can't bulbs be saved and dropped off at annual Recycling Day.

**G. Site Plan Instruction**

EC discussed whether we should join Little Silver's EC and have ANJEC speak. Little Silver suggests getting involved with regional EC. Mrs. Milnes offered her husband to give a lesson on site plan review at June's EC meeting. Mr. Milnes is a member of Planning Board and an architectural designer.

**H. Global Warming** – Mrs. Latimer, Dr. DiBello, Mr. Cooperhouse (Council Pres.) and Mr. Burden met to discuss global warming with respect to borough. Mr. Cooperhouse is in favor of educating Council on subject and is looking to EC for advice. Mrs. Latimer is in touch with Dr. Patrick Hoosey, global warming expert, from Stockton State College who is eager to come and speak to Council sometime in June or September.

**I. Rain Garden** – Ms. Blair had opportunity to speak with Councilman McGuire during Recycling Day and gave him a brief overview on rain gardens. Mr. Isaac Martin, V.P. of Native Plant Society, also spoke with Mr. McGuire. It was suggested a rain garden be built at Municipal Complex, at drainage basin, a perfect location. Mr. Cranmer, engineer, was consulted, and is excited about idea. Mrs. Blair will prepare letter to Mr. McGuire proposing rain garden, which will be presented to Council at May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**J. ANJEC Workshop** – There will be a Cool Cities Conference on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Latimer, Mrs. Fotopoulos, Dr. DiBello, Ms. Blair and Mrs. Kodama expressed interest in attending.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Fotopoulos made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 p.m., Dr. DiBello seconded motion.

Susan Milnes, Secretary