

EWING TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Board Room at Ewing Senior Center
999 Lower Ferry Road
Ewing, NJ 08628
March 18th, 2015 Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER-OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:

Chair Lee Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. He began by reading the following statement: "The notice requirements provided for in the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. The Ewing Township Council properly gave notice of this meeting in the resolution on January 1, 2015 which was filed with the Clerk and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex, and has been sent to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian newspapers."

II. ROLL CALL
PRESENT:

Dan Burke
John Hoegl
Lee Farnham
Joe Mirabella

Jo Ann Povia
Ann Farnham
Joanne Mallowney

EXCUSED

Arti Sahn

MEMBERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, President of Ewing Twp Council
Pete Boughton, former EC Chair and GT Chair
Bruce Black, FMC Candidate for EEC membership
Claudia Tappe, Ann & Lee's granddaughter, a senior at Vermont Academy with interest in the environment

III. MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes: Last month's minutes are not yet available for review and approval

IV. STATEMENTS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Pete Boughton and Ann Farnham discussed an old Environmental Site Review for a parcel involving the knockdown of the former Sherbrook bowling alley and NJ public television studio. Four mature sycamore trees in question had been removed in agreement with our review. He also discussed representing Ewing at a Mercer County pedestrian/bike task force special meeting led by Ewing resident and Mercer County Principal Transportation Planner Matt Lawson. Mr. Lawson had provided quadrant maps showing proposed roads and pathways throughout the County. Pete asked EEC members to consider who might go with him to the next meeting, and possibly become our principal advocate in the future.

Bruce Black introduced himself and expressed his interest in joining the EEC and a desire to work to help save the environment.

Jo Ann Povia was sworn in for another year's service as a member of the EEC.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Planning board: JoAnn Povia

Planning Board meeting was cancelled due to weather/snow.

2. Site review: Ann Farnham

There were three Reports for this last meeting;

- 1) RCGV Industrial site, required screening to block against adjacent Church
- 2) TJC Housing development had no landscape or grading done yet. These will be reviewed once submitted.
- 3) SEIX Academy School campus, requested an amendment to landscape details

3. Green Team: John Hoegl, Joe Mirabella & Joanne Mallowney John reported on the Green Team Energy Subcommittee and their efforts to get local businesses involved. There will probably be an extension to this program as there is much interest. A company called The "Direct Install" program is done with Tri-State Light & Energy.

John also mentioned an article in the 3/17 Science section of the NYT, about Al Gore and his vision, and how he had forecast that solar and wind costs would drop to the point where they'd be very competitive.

Joe discussed his upcoming lecture entitled: "Is It Time to Go Nuclear?" to be held at the Living Local Expo on March 28th at the Armory in Lawrenceville.

Joanne discussed the Community Visioning Process, Environmental Insights Speakers that are needed, and setting up a bike tour of Ewing before Comfest.

4. Website: Joanne Mallowney, Jo Ann Povia & Dan Burke

Joanne discussed the Facebook page and how to make it more successful. She also suggested that we should probably switch to WordPress for website hosting due to some glitches with Wix. ANJEC was also mentioned as a good information resource

Jo Ann mentioned "NJ Spotlight.com" as another good source for pertinent local information.

Dan discussed the idea of setting up an "Environmental Toolkit" where Ewing residents could get beneficial information and resources pertinent to the environment, such as: exotic invasive plant list, pollinator lists, etc. He will contribute those resources to the website.

5. Johnson Trolley Trail: Dan Burke & Lee Farnham

Dan went over the schedule for the upcoming planting at JTT. This included having the beds dug and replenished with good soil by the Tom Elder's township crew prior to the trees and shrubs being delivered and installed. Volunteers would be used along with Dan's crew to plant, dress the beds and water in the materials. It was stated that follow up with maintenance and watering were critical to the success of this project. No work was to be done on the bridge at this time.

Lee discussed the signage for the site using Trenton Joe's to get a quote for a maintenance-free material.

6. Tree of the Month: Ann Farnham

The tree selected for April is *Chionanthus virginicus*. Ann had seen this tree at the Philadelphia Flower Show and gotten a great photo. Ann is looking for suggestions for the coming months, especially those with specimens in Ewing.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **New Member: Bruce Black** is being brought in to meet with various township officials as he is nominated for membership to the EEC. He will be a welcome addition.
2. **Pipeline News: Jo Ann Povia** reported on the Penn East Pipeline hearing. Jo Ann has the comments available. There was discussion of a Pinelands pipeline. She suggested that we check FERC for their mapping of pending pipelines in NJ.
3. **DEP Emergency Response Committee: Joe Mirabella** discussed the need for coordinating with West Trenton Fire Station and seeking a copy of any Emergency Plan that Ewing Twp may already have regarding the situation with the proposed pipeline and existing CSX train transport of sweet light crude from the fracking activities. John Hoegl discussed that we should have MSDS (material safety data sheet sheets on what is sent throughout the pipes and within the train cars.

4. **John Watson Park: Dan Burke and Joe Mirabella** reviewed the previous meeting at Watson Park with Jordan from Americorps and a large group from Ewing Twp and EEC. Dan discussed latest talks with DEP and Americorps, as well as the need to source a map for the base plan concept design which would: Help in procuring materials to stabilize the stream bank Provide native plantings including pollinators.
Dan also brought up the NJDEP's 2015 Recreational Trails Program Grant Application and how it might possibly be used to fund this. Lee Farnham cautioned that we might not be eligible as there is already a trail grant with JTT. Joanne Mullowney also cautioned that any grant must be written using the township's Grant writer, Jeffrey Lischin.
5. **Johnson Trolley Trail: Dan Burke & Lee Farnham** reviewed the "Johnson Trolley Trail TimeLine". Dan will also be meeting shortly with Tom Elder and Jim McManimon to firm things up. Lee discussed the proposed signage from Trenton Joe's.
6. **Annual Report: Lee Farnham** discussed the inclusion of the following for the Annual Report: Site Plan Review, Tree of the Month, CEUs, Invasive Species, Johnson Trolley Trail, Community Forestry Management Plan
7. **Trail Cleanups.** Lee stressed that he needed written paragraphs from each EEC member for inclusion.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Co-Chair versus Chair: Lee Farnham** opened a discussion about these two alternate ways to run the EEC meetings. Lee was asked if he would continue as Chair. He said that he would and so was voted in to continue serving as Chair for the remainder of this year. John Hoegl was voted in as Vice-Chair.
2. **CEU's: Ann Farnham & Dan Burke** discussed the courses taken to date and the credits earned. Lee explained the need for the township to acquire credits each year to stay current with requirements of the CFMP.
3. **ANJEC Commissioner's Training on March 21st at StonyBrook-Millstone.** Lee Farnham discussed the course and how he had been asked to talk about EC/township cooperation.
4. **Detention Basin Ecosystems, Ann Farnham** brought up the ongoing discussion about naturalizing detention basins in Ewing Twp. Lee Farnham suggested setting up a subcommittee to work on this, possibly using the large basin in front of the municipal building as a test case. Ann Farnham, Dan Burke, Bruce Black and Joanne Mullowney all volunteered to be on this sub-committee. Jennifer Keyes-Maloney stressed the need for good drawings and information to move the process forward and get a good support system in place.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no new correspondence.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** The business of the Commission having been concluded, Joe Mirabella made a motion to adjourn the March meeting. It was approved unanimously at 8.25 PM.

Lee Farnham, Chair

Dan Burke, Acting Secretary.

These minutes approved on _____

ATTACHMENTS: none