



## EWING TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Board Room at Ewing Senior Center  
99 Lower Ferry Road  
Ewing, NJ 08628

### MINUTES – AUGUST 21, 2015

#### I. CALL TO ORDER-OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Chair Lee Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:35 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:**

Bruce Black  
Ann Farnham  
Lee Farnham  
Joe Mirabella  
Joanne Mullowney

Jo Ann Povia  
John Hoegl  
Jeff Passe

**EXCUSED:**

Dan Burke

#### III. MEMBERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, President of the Ewing Township Council was with us.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### SITE REVIEW/PLANNING BOARD: JOANN POVIA AND ANN FARNHAM

A Wawa gas station and retail store is planned at the southeast corner of Parkway Ave. and Scotch Rd., opposite the NJ Credit Union; the PB will vote on it September 3. No inventory of trees over 6" in diameter has been done and no information on tree replacement was provided, according to Ann Farnham. On the other hand, there are plans for a bio-retention basin for storm water management, a positive step although some of the plants proposed are not water tolerant.

There was no Planning Board meeting in August. Even though tree replacement is not part of the Township ordinance, Jo Ann Povia said, tree replacement is part of a development agreement. Walgreens, for example, included tree replacement in their plans and made a donation to the tree replacement fund (similar to the sidewalk replacement fund).

Ann talked about how we need to know what the street tree replacement specifications are because PSE&G



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contractors are doing a lot of pruning now, and the topped trees or mangled trunks left by bad pruning are unsightly. Who is checking up on them?

### GREEN TEAM: JOHN HOEGL, JOE MIRABELLA & JOANNE MULLOWNEY

The energy committee will be more involved in the **Direct Install** program, redo their flyer and put an ad in the Observer instead of US1. As the weather cools John Hoegl says that people will be more interested in energy audits (Joanne Mullowney suggests a mailing). Perhaps the Mayor could mention energy audits in a robocal?

Joanne observes that the Township could have saved big bucks on lighting costs if they'd used **Direct Install**. The subcommittee has energy audits that were never finished, and the public works building's was never started.

Joanne talked about the possible GT Bike Tour on October 24 and how hard it's been to line up the insurance (it can take up to six months). Jennifer Keyes-Maloney volunteers to look into the insurance issue. The ET Recreation Dept. can collect payments (a great help), but sponsorship is still iffy.

Joanne mentions that the GT is looking at Silver Certification under Sustainable Jersey in 2016 and that our site review efforts get points (10) and that the GT Visioning gets 50!! Council resolutions may help in the process.

### WEBSITE: JOANNE MULLOWNEY

Joanne Mullowney reports that Jim McManimon, Township Administrator, approved the site with two suggestions: 1) Include a link to elected officials); 2) add a thank you mention to FMC and other corporate citizens of note. ANJEC is also mentioned, and there's a link to their site.

The site is <http://ewingec.org> and there is a rotating header image of the rapids in the Delaware River in Ewing and the Johnson Trolley Trail.

Now begins the real work, she warns us. We have to submit copy to keep the environmental information coming. Bruce Black will send in an article about Monarch butterfly migration, and Ann Farnham will get monthly "Tree of the Month" articles to Joanne. All others are urged to bend to the task. Joe Mirabella will do something on nuclear power while Lee Farnham will see if the birds have anything to say.

Delaware Riverkeeper put out a new and comprehensive study on fracking; she'll put a link to that.

### TREE OF THE MONTH: ANN FARNHAM

Ann Farnham tells us that Pawpaw is the **Tree of the Month**, a native species. She also says that now is a questionable time to plant trees because most nurseries will sell you leftovers, and they won't have much time to root before a bad winter is upon us.



Contact us: [eec@ewingnj.org](mailto:eec@ewingnj.org)

On the web: [Ewingec.org](http://ewingec.org)





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### JOHNSON TROLLEY TRAIL: LEE FARNHAM

Lee Farnham and Dan Burke met with Jim McManimon about this project and covered several items: 1) the grant ends in late September so will need to be extended. Lee will contact DEP to get it done; 2) Dan will coordinate the purchase of a water tank and pump that will allow ET to develop a watering program for the plantings (now postponed until Spring, 2016); c) The repositioning of the big boulder will be done just before the plantings, and the trail sign will be done then too; d) Tom Elder will be our contact for the bridge painting; e) Trail maintenance plans will be created next year.

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### PIPELINES

Jo Ann Povia reports that filings are expected in September. Even though pipeline representatives need property owner permission to enter the property, they're still going to be mailing them notice that they will be surveying. It's hard for homeowners to get objective information, but Hopewell and East Amwell groups, backed by their local governments, have made a concerted effort to get the word out. PSE&G has been behind the efforts.

### SPECIAL MEETING ABOUT ERI/CE

Lee asks for those who haven't to send him their recommendations on the specific objectives they reported on. Without them we're dead in the water. We may have to have another meeting anyway. The purpose of these meetings is to work more smoothly with Chuck Latini, Jr., Township Planner.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### DUKE FARMS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

Joanne, Bruce and Lee went to this and all felt it was really well done, informative, and could be something replicated in ET for students and adults alike. It's on our wish list. The cafeteria is nice, with healthy food.

#### ANJEC

Lee reports that the Annual Meeting is on October 9, Friday, at Raritan Valley Community College, same as last year. Jeff Passe and Joanne Mallowney have already signed up. The Township will reimburse four EEC members. Who else wants to go? Let Lee know quickly.

### NEW JERSEY SHADE TREE FEDERATION'S (NJSTF)

90<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated at their annual meeting in Atlantic City from October 23-24. The EEC must core-train one member each year as part of our CFMP annual requirement; the Township pays the \$95 cost (reimburses). John Hoegl said he would go. (ET is required to have one person get core training too. Kris Olson will be asked this year, according to Jim McManimon).



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### EMERALD ASH BORER NEWS

A survey in Ewing by Rutgers to determine ash tree population on public property (within ten feet of the street) found a total of 849. Ewing is one of three Mercer County towns involved. Results aren't public, but will be released at the NJSTF meeting in October. There is much concern about the approaching threat to ashes by the Emerald Ash Borer. Planning needs to be done now to limit the damage (and warn the public) although Bruce Black told us of the Gypsy Moth threat which never developed, and that this insect is so small that it might not be able to find trees (some cities are already getting rid of their Ash trees in response). What is the EEC's responsibility, what can we do....topics for our next meeting.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### TRENTON AIRPORT ISSUES

The EEC was copied on a letter from C&S Engineers in Syracuse, NY about a TTN project to extend the runway protection zones (RPZ). The purpose would be to allow for longer non-stops to fly from TTN than do now. That would require modification a/o removal of blocks of trees to provide greater safety. TTN is a county facility, so this issue will not come before ET. C&S pointed out that there are no plans yet, but they're presenting the "worst case scenario" in what they sent. Lee will coordinate a reply, and talked with C&S to get an extension on the deadline for comments, since it took five weeks for their letter to the EEC to get to the right person.

### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no correspondence received other than the C&S letter, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 8:40PM.

*Lee Farnham*

Lee Farnham, Chair

*Jeff Passe*

Acting Secretary

### ATTACHMENTS

The letter from C&S Engineers is a scanned copy of the original. It does not include the maps that were included as they were too large for the scanner.



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July 8, 2015

Attn: Mr. Michael Nordquist / Ms. Joanne Mullowney, Co-Chair  
Environmental Commission  
Township of Ewing  
2 Jake Garzio Drive  
Ewing, NJ 08628

Re: Trenton-Mercer Airport  
NEPA Environmental Assessment for Runway Protection  
Zones and Obstruction Mitigation  
Environmental Scoping

File: 280.008.002

Dear Mr. Nordquist and Ms. Mullowney:

On behalf of Mercer County, C&S Engineers, Inc., is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) incompatible land uses and mitigate obstructions at Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN) in the Township of Ewing, New Jersey. The EA will evaluate the environmental impacts associated with obtaining control of the runway protection zones (RPZs) to remove obstructions and address incompatible land uses and mitigation of identified obstructions to the navigable airspace surrounding TTN. Since the proposed project will involve funding and approvals from federal, state, and local agencies, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review is necessary to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements to assess impacts associated with airport development projects. The FAA is the NEPA lead agency for the proposed project.

An aeronautical survey and subsequent obstruction evaluation have been performed utilizing FAA guidelines. As a result of these studies, objects that affect the navigable airspace surrounding Trenton-Mercer Airport have been identified and are shown on the attached Scoping Map #1 (Figure 1). The obstructions include trees, residences, utility poles, roads, terrain, airport fencing, a railroad, an antenna, cell towers, and buildings located on and off airport property. Please note that the attached scoping map shows all objects that were identified as obstructions by the obstruction evaluation. Alternatives, mitigation measures, and/or removal plans have not yet been developed. Mitigation measures may vary from the complete removal of individual trees, to selective clearing and grubbing of vegetated areas, crown reduction (tree topping); lowering, removing, or burying utilities, acquisition of residential parcels, or lighting and marking.

The obstruction evaluation also identified portions of the RPZs that extend off airport property and contain incompatible land uses (see attached Figure 2). The incompatible land uses include residential dwellings, public roads, railroads, a golf course, school





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Mr. Michael Nordquist / Ms. Joanne Mullowney  
July 8, 2015  
Page 2

athletic fields, and a cemetery. Alternatives and mitigation measures have not yet been developed with regard to the identified incompatible land uses.

It is anticipated review and/or approvals may be required from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJHPO), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), National Park Service (NPS), and the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission (DRCC).

We are requesting that your agency provide information regarding the following Environmental Impact Categories, taken from FAA Order 5050.4B *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Instructions for Airport Actions* and FAA Order 1050.1E *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures* as they may relate to the proposed project within the limits of the study area shown on Figure 3. The categories are listed in the table below:

Air Quality	Light Emissions & Visual Impacts
Coastal Resources	Natural Resources & Energy Supply
Compatible Land Use	Noise
Construction Impacts	Secondary (Induced) Impacts
Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)	Socioeconomic Impacts
Farmlands	Environmental Justice
Fish, Wildlife, and Plants	Children's Environmental Health & Safety Risks
Floodplains	Water Quality
Hazardous Materials, Pollution Prevention, & Solid Waste	Wetlands
Historic, Architectural, Archeological, and Cultural Resources	Wild & Scenic Rivers

As part of the EA, technical studies and reports will be conducted/prepared that include the following:

- Phase IA Cultural Resources Survey
- Acoustic Survey for Indiana Bats and Northern long-eared bats. Mist Net Survey and Telemetry tracking if needed to confirm positive results of Acoustic Survey.
- Habitat Assessment for state species
- Section 4(f) Analysis
- Wetlands delineation and vernal habitat survey

www.cscos.com



(877) CS-SOLVE