

OCEAN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 1, 2008

7:00 PM

Meeting began at 7:00 PM.

Call to Order – Flag Salute

Open Public Meeting Act – Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, sending copies of the notice of the meeting properly provided adequate notice of the meeting to the Times Beacon and the Asbury Park press. Notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Administration Building.

Roll Call:

In attendance: Ed Covitz	Don Lippincott
Heide Geary (7:05)	Pat McCarty
Robert Knowles	William Rossnagel (7:30)
Tom Leaming	Jack Henderson

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Chairman Lippincott asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2008 regular meeting. Tom Leaming made a motion to approve the minutes. Pat McCarty seconded the motion. All in favor: (aye).

The correspondence list was addressed and reviewed. The secretary always has the correspondence at each meeting if any member would like to pull and discuss any item.

OLD BUSINESS

Adopt-A-Sewer Program – Mr. Henderson reported. His area has been out and located all the storm basins. Maps have been made and are currently being reviewed to see which drains needs to be stenciled, which have to be cleaned, etc.. Pebble Beach is trying to get homeowners to adopt-a-sewer, but in case there is no one to look after a specific sewer, could Matt Ambrosio be contacted to clean them out when they are blocked. Alliance for a Living Ocean gave Mr. Henderson 12 more stencils to use. Within the next week, they should be stenciling those drains in need of a stencil. They will report back to Matt Ambrosio with a count.

A question was raised regarding leaves and if they need to be bagged. The thought was that the township did have a vacuum attachment to up leaves. What is the vacuum used for? Could it be used to vacuum up the storm sewer leaves? Secretary will contact Matt Ambrosio and speak to him regarding the leaves and see if he would like to attend a meeting and speak about this.

The commission discussed contacting other associations to possibly get the adopt-a-sewer program started in other neighborhoods as well. The public needs to be educated on the use of fertilizers and how much damage it does to the bay.

Mr. Knowles brought up that he thought either in Manahawkin or one of the communities on Long Beach Island has a filter system that catches some of the large debris so it wouldn't clog the drains and wind up in the bay.

The commission discussed the fact that Manahawkin is dropping the level of its lake a few feet to reduce the vegetation. Would this be a good idea for Waretown Lake? Another concern is roadside kill of vegetation where municipalities clear all natural vegetation from roadsides by mowing, and after repeated mowing it no longer grows back. Secretary will speak with Matt Ambrosio regarding these two issues.

The commission discussed putting together a letter to send to the different associations in town asking about their newsletters and if information concerning the adopt-a-sewer program could be inserted. Also in the various newsletters, invite the residents to attend a meeting in March or April and have Helen Henderson, Atlantic Coast Project Manager, speak regarding the Barnegat Bay and the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program. The secretary had met Ms. Henderson earlier last month and she said she would gladly come and speak.

Environmental Commission Website – Just to start out, the commission would like to get a paragraph posted on sewer run-off to the bay with links and also a paragraph on the tree contest currently going on with the schools. Secretary will get this to Kammie Verdolina who will get it approved and put on the website. The website can be updated once every month.

Mini-Grant Program – The Mini-Grant Application is due January 16, 2009. The Township Committee still needs to approve this. Ideas were reviewed. The Commission discussed various different ideas and decided on a possible website. The main purpose is to develop a method of communicating to the residents on the lagoons about the bay conservation. IBOATNJ is another place to check for grants. Chairman Lippincott and the Secretary will be a sub-committee.

Gypsy Moths – Mr. Leaming wanted to comment that in Dogtown area there were no gypsy moths. The previous year Dogtown was overloaded, so he felt the spraying did an excellent job. Secretary will ask Matt Ambrosio to attend the next meeting and give us an update on the coming year.

The Commission briefly discussed the Open Space Tax and township properties, the pit as a possible de-watering site. The Waterway's committee would be the logical committee to discuss this the next time they meet.

Next months meeting will be January 5, 2009 at 5:30 PM. The Reorganization meeting will take place first and then the regular meeting immediately following.

Pat McCarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Knowles seconded the motion. All in favor: (aye).

Meeting ended at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Laramee, Secretary