

**TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009**

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Township of Morris Environmental Commission was called to order on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 7:00 P.M., in the Municipal Building, 50 Woodland Avenue, Township of Morris

**Statement of Adequate Notice**

Chairman Largman issued the following statement:

"I hereby announce and state that adequate notice of this meeting was provided by the Secretary of the Environmental Commission by preparing a notice September 10, 2009, specifying the time, date and place of this meeting; posting such notice on the bulletin board in the municipal building; filing said notice with the Clerk of the Township of Morris; forwarding the notice to the Morris County Daily Record and The Morris News Bee, and forwarding, by mail, the said notice to all persons on the request list, and I hereby hand a copy of such notice to the Secretary of the Environmental Commission for inclusion in the minutes of this meeting, all of the above actions being in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10<sup>4</sup>-6, Et. Seq., Open Public Meeting Act."

**Attendance**

**Members Present**

Theodore Largman, Chairperson  
Franz Vintschger  
David Stasse  
Robert L. Wallace  
Penelope Wise  
Dominick LaRosa  
Thomas Humbert

**Members Absent**

Emily Bellush, Alternate #1

**Also Present**

Sonia Santiago, Secretary  
James R. Slate, Township Engineer  
Ronald Goldberg, 4 ½ Hilltop Circle

**Also Absent**

Fred J. Rossi, Township Administrator

Consideration for approval of the minutes of the May 12, 2009 and July 14, 2009 meeting. On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting were approved as circulated, the July 14, 2009 as amended and placed on file in the office of the Environmental Commission.

Guest Speaker - Frank Marascia, SMCUA Water Quality Regulatory Specialist the water provider for the Township of Morris, Morristown, Hanover Township and Harding.

Mr. Marascia stated that in 1991 there was legislation passed under the safe drinking water act called the lead and copper rule, which was specifically designed to address lead and copper in drinking water. No wells contribute lead and copper in our drinking water. The lead and copper will come from the residences plumbing within the house and it will also be a function of the corrosive properties of the water. The lead and copper rule was put in place in order to protect the public health and it requires utilities to monitor lead levels at customer's taps and implement a corrosion control program to eliminate the corrosive properties in the water that they serve. Monitoring the taps is based on the worse case scenario. It is impossible to sample everyone's homes within the service area. We serve over 67 thousand customers within the four towns. The rule stipulates that you have to sample worse case scenarios which they call tier one locations; these are homes that have specific criteria which are homes that have lead service lines and homes that have been built within 1982 and 1986. Older homes have had more time to allow natural mineral build up inside of the pipes that forms a protective coating that keeps metal from leaching out. In 1986 the building codes changed eliminating lead in solder, homes that were built between 1982 and 1986 still have lead solder. These are high risk homes, tier one worse case scenario locations. The location is biased to worse case scenario and also in the manner in which the sample are collected. In addition the law requires that we implement a corrosion control program. We treat the water to limit the corrosive properties we also feed at certain locations a corrosion inhibitor which forms a protective coating which keeps the metals from leaching out of the pipes. He stated that samples are collected at the customers' taps. He continued to explain to the committee the level of contamination, and informed the committee that any home that uses brass, has lead in it. He proceeded to inform the Committee that a water softener will remove minerals from the water, the water that we provide comes from a well instead from a reservoir which contains more minerals. A lengthy discussion was carried regarding nutrients, minerals and other contaminants.

Mr. Largman suggested that the school water be monitored for lead levels. He stated that the contaminant is no good for the school children. He also recommended that the water be tested for drug contamination.

Mr. Marascia informed them that they test their wells on a regular basis for bacteria and they also do additional testing above and beyond of what is required. No private wells are tested it is up to the homeowner to have them tested.

#### **New applications referred from the Planning Board:**

No applications to be reviewed by the Environmental Commission

#### **New applications referred from the Board of Adjustment**

No applications to be reviewed by the Environmental Commission.

#### **Correspondence**

The following were noted as received for the record:

- A. 7-20-09, Application for LOI, EcoScience, Inc., Block 601, Lots 18 & 18.01, for Rabbinical College, Sussex Avenue.
- B. 9-02-09, MC Soil Conservation District, Stop Construction Order, Block 3103, Lot 60, 74 Kahdena Road.
- C. 9-04-09, Tree City USA Bulletin, How to Write a Municipal Tree Ordinance

## **General Business**

### Status Reports:

Whippany River Watershed Action Committee – Mr. Largman stated that the meeting is going to be held on September 16, 2009 and that he was going to receive an award for his 10 years of service. Mr. Slate informed Mr. Largman that he should inform the Watershed Action Committee that the Western Avenue project there was the proposal from Princeton Hydro the heavy rain that we had in August caused another portion to collapse and we need to act on it as soon as possible. We got a proposal from another firm and we expect to have an award at the next Township Committee meeting for the project. We are not giving the award to only one firm this is a piece of the puzzle that is moving forward.

Geese Management – None to be reported

Deer – Mr. Goldberg stated that the Township website has more information on the properties that will be targeted for deer hunting.

### **Other Matters:**

**Recycling** - Mr. LaRosa stated that he attended a sustainable Jersey seminar and that there are opportunities to get grants and to finance studies through this Sustainable program. There were a few towns that were represented and went along with the process. You have the opportunity to select from four priority options such as Energy audit, Municipal facilities, working on Municipal carbon foot prints; sustainable wetland use pledge and water conservation. In order to earn points you have to pursue two of the four. If you get a certain amount of points you qualify for different grants as you progress. The starting point is for the municipality to sign up.

Mr. Largman stated that he would like to see juice, ice cream and milk carton recycled and that there is a system that recovers it. The Town of Chatham collects these items. A discussion was carried regarding the wax carton. Mr. LaRosa stated he had a meeting with Mr. Stoia from the Department of Public Works and they had stated that they are looking into it. There is a new technology that may handle the removal of wax. I asked them to keep us informed. A discussion was carried regarding the locations and cost to recycle the various items.

Mr. Goldberg stated that electronics are collected at the Department of Public Works on a regular basis. Residents are to bring their items to the yard.

**Tree Ordinance** – Mr. Stasse stated that the objective here is to come up with an ordinance that will stop the clear cutting and we also would like to get the homeowners to recognize the importance and benefit of having an ordinance like this one. Some of the ordinances that he has reviewed deal with development at the same time we would like some of it to be applied to the individual homeowner.

Mr. Slate stated that when it was discussed at the Technical Coordinating Committee they wanted to work off of our existing tree ordinance. There were some key issues, we want to prevent people from clear cutting their lot. In the Jackson case there was language that differentiates between homeowner and developer and there are also enforcement issues. The Planning Board was asked for direction on how to go about the tree ordinance. A lengthy discussion was carried on the language and how do we implement the tree ordinance and what are some of the things that we would like to enforce.

Mr. Vintschger suggested that the draft tree ordinance be distributed to all the Planning Board members for discussion at the next meeting.

The Environmental Commission is invited to participate at the next Planning Board meeting which will take place on October 5, 2009 at 7:30 pm to share their opinion.

**Energy Conservation** – Mr. Wallace stated that solar has been a soft spot for the Town for some time, we had Honeywell to do an assessment and their recommendation was to go Geo-thermal. He stated that he was looking into what is currently available. PSE&G announced in February to have a five year plan, to place solar panels on utility poles to subsidize housing, school and other buildings with solar power. This is a very ambitious plan. By the end of the five year development period they would be producing 120 mega watts that it would cost \$773,000.000 to develop. What they are planning on doing is placing the solar panels on all of their utility poles. The units are made by Petro Solar in South Plainfield and built into these cells is communication and management technology, you will have 200,000 solar panels on utility poles that are managed by a central site. This will be the largest pole mounted solar panel project in the United States. The 120 mega watts solar capacity will eliminate 1.7 million tons of co2 emissions which is the equivalent of removing 310 thousand cars from the road for one year. There is a local government aspect to this where the project is called Solar for all and it is divided into mega watts, the local government is comprised of 40 to 43 mega watts at a 273 million dollar investment. PSE&G is focusing in the urban enterprise zones, which doesn't qualify us. There was a reference in the documentation to the fact that it was not only going to be economically distressed areas that other communities can buy into the 43 mega watt plan.

This put us in number two as far as the implementation and use of solar technology in the Country as far as the State wide basis. There will be 200,000 solar panel that comprise this interconnect network. In some cases it will centralize very large networks such as Linden, Edison and Trenton.

The point technologically is a very interesting project, it's a massive project, it's a well funded project and there is the possibility to be part of this project. It's something to look at; the plan was approved on June 29, 2009. It will also be interesting to see if we can bring solar panels into the Township.

**Community Garden** – Ms. Wise stated that she hasn't had the chance to get together with Emily to explore the possibility of community gardens in the Township. Mr. Largman stated that there is a meeting to be held at the Library on October 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm regarding sustainable gardening for homeowners.

**Western Avenue Reservoir** – Carried to the next meeting.

Public Commentary – None to be heard.

Commentary by Committee Members - None to be heard.

With no further business for consideration by the Township of Morris Environmental Commission, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Santiago, Secretary  
Township of Morris Environmental Commission