

Pittsgrove Township Environmental Commission Minutes for Meeting of January 28, 2008

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
2. Members gave the pledge to the flag.
3. The Chairman affirmed that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act had been given of the meeting by:
 - a. Forwarding notice thereof to Today's Sunbeam and the Daily Journal,
 - b. Posting notice thereof on the community events bulletin board at the Pittsgrove Township Municipal Building, and
 - c. Filing notice thereof in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.
(All of the above was done at least 48 hours in advance.)
4. Attendance – Members in attendance: Herb Wegner, Meghan Hack, Kevin Garrison, Bob Morse, Tom Figlio, Trish Jankauskas, and Debby Turner-Fox.
5. Meghan Hack made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 meeting as written. Kevin Garrison seconded the motion; all approved.
6. Unfinished Business
Redevelopment Status – Bob Morse reported that the EC needed to write a letter of support for the Brownfields testing and remediation. The Economic Development Committee has grant money to take care of this effort. This is the gas station, silo, and asphalt plant. The grant is for \$5 million per calendar year. Bob will get more information from the Economic Development Committee. Bob Morse said he would contact the committee to get a few more details and draft a letter to support the investigation of the severity of the problems at the Brownfields site, to identify the steps necessary to correct the problems.

Ordinances

The Cluster Ordinance was to be discussed at the next Planning Board meeting, February 6th (workshop session) pertaining to Bridlewood Estates. It will then be discussed on February 19th. The ordinance is confusing and that is why there are currently multiple interpretations. The Environmental Commission is firm in that the wetlands, buffers, drainage basins and other infrastructure are to first be subtracted from the total tract; then the developable land is cut in half, with half being saved as open space and half for lots. An additional concern is that the entire area proposed for houses in the Bridlewood Estates plan is a Planning Area 5 - environmentally sensitive area. This is where development will have the most adverse effect on groundwater.

The Conservation Design Ordinance development is still on hold.

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement recommendations were sent to the Planning Board on January 31, 2007.

Build-out analysis is still not in.

The Bird Habitat Survey has been completed. The survey-text and maps were received from Dennis Miranda. Herb will send the electronic version of this to the EC members. The EC viewed maps from his survey at the meeting. We are recommending that Dennis send us a bigger map.

Open Space

Farmland PIG Status

Schroeder – Auction slated for Fall 2008

Tamagni –closing will be scheduled in the next few weeks

Kibort awaiting SADC easement value

Petronglo – value certified

Green Acres and other Open Space

Renwick – On hold

Briar Hill – no action currently

Running Deer – still trying to work out a deal

Danna Property – Closing will be within a month. The lot next to this property is also being considered, giving a total of about 50 acres.

Centerton Lake – GA is still working on this

Willow Grove Lake- uncertain what the future will be

Road Cleanup- Tom suggested that are next clean-up will be this Saturday at 7:30 am. We will meet at the Municipal Building

Pesticide-free zones: Bob has been working with the recreation committee to get our public parks to use natural products to control weeds and insects. They can still use pesticides, but only as a last resort measure. Bob has requested that the EC support his efforts. Bob gave the Recreation Committee names of towns that have done this so they can research the issue. Bob made a motion that we draft a letter to the Township Committee that states that the EC recommends the Township promote pesticide free zones in some of its parks. Trish seconded the motion. All approved.

7. Report on area meetings/training

Herb Wegner, Kirk Craver, and Pete Voros attended the Transfer of Development Rights meeting in January.

8. New Business-

Gypsy Moth outbreak was heavy near route 40 last year. Debby Turner-Fox presented maps showing last year's breakout. The Department of Agriculture came out to survey egg masses in Pittsgrove. 520 egg masses per acre in a contiguous area is the number for qualifying for the gypsy moth spraying program. There are two proposals for the

township: 840 acres are affected; 820 are recommended for double applications (10 days apart). BTK needs to be ingested by the caterpillar and the decline in population won't be seen until the next year. The timeline would be from May 5th until June 5th. The Township Committee has moved to have the spraying. The cost will be about \$65,000 for the Township with a possibility of getting refunded by the federal government. Department of Agriculture also has proposed spraying Dimilin. It is sprayed and needs to be ingested by the caterpillar. It prohibits the caterpillar from molting. It is chemical based and has an 80% rate of effectiveness. Our Township has been approached with this proposal. There is a 30 day residual effect. It is not proposed nearby any waterway. This isn't harmful to mammals or birds. It can be harmful for shrimp and crabs. There is a cost benefit to take this route. It's \$52,000. The EPA has approved the spraying, but the DEP has not. We need to make our decision by March.

Brochure- EC members viewed the work-in-progress. Discussion ensued about additions to the brochure as well as taking Linda's idea and creating the next town newsletter to be an environmental edition.

New Farmland Preservation Plan – The EC viewed the maps in the plan.

Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT): Herb will be the chairman of this Trust as of tomorrow. Global Warming Mitigation through Preservation will be a direction in which the Trust will be heading.

9. Upcoming events/meetings/training:

February 19: Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

10. Issues before the Planning Board

Bridlewood Estates scheduled for February 6th and 19th

Lee Transport Systems LLC is seeking variances

11. Communications: none at this time

12. Member Comments: Bob Morse submitted a bald eagle sighting to the NJDEP.

13. Public Comments: none at this time

14. Bob Morse made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trish Jankauskas seconded the motion. All approved.