

Pittsgrove Township Environmental Commission Minutes for Meeting of March 26, 2007

1. The commissioner called the meeting to order at 7:36pm.
2. The pledge to the flag was given.
3. The meeting was advertised per the Open Public Meetings Act.
Adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting by:
 - a. Forwarding notice thereof to Today's Sunbeam and the Daily Journal, both of which were printed in the January 10, 2007 editions.
 - 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 –Trish Jankauskas, Bob Morse, Meghan Hack, Herb Wegner, Tom Figlio, Dave Hunt, and Mayor Pete Voros.
5. Bob Morse made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the February 26, 2007 meeting. Trish Jankauskas seconded the motion. All approved.
6. Unfinished Business
 - a. Redevelopment Area – Bob stated that there is nothing to report at this time. Herb reported that he attended a state meeting on the cross-acceptance plan that does affect this redevelopment area. 97% of Pittsgrove land is deemed environmentally sensitive. The entire area that the redevelopment zone is in is considered environmentally sensitive. Pittsgrove can apply to get permission for a redevelopment area in certain parts of this environmentally sensitive areas and that is why it is possible to make the proposed 135-165 acres into a redevelopment zone. Because of Landis Avenue's existing commercial lots, it is a good area for more businesses. Mayor Voros commented that the Savannah Branch, which runs through the area of the proposed redevelopment, can be protected by a larger buffer than commercial lots would normally be required to have if this area were not a designated redevelopment zone.
 - b. Ordinances –
 1. Wellhead Protection - Bob made a motion to table developing this ordinance at this time. Tom Figlio seconded the motion. All approved.
 2. Threatened & Endangered Species - Pilesgrove/Woodstown Environmental Commission, with help of the Audubon Society, has written a T & E ordinance. Dennis Miranda has written a letter to them to get information about it and a copy of it.
 - c. EIS recommendation to the Planning Board - Bob Morse has worked on analyzing the existing EIS requirements and supplemented it with additional information to make it stronger.
 - d. Conservation Design – To be on hold until after joint PB/EC meeting- either April 16 (Monday) or April 19 (Thursday). We will be meeting at the invitation of the mayor (public invited as well). We've invited Dennis Mirands, US Fish and Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, Fran Rappa, and a DEP Non-game Species representatives to discuss species and habitat in Pittsgrove. It will be a question and answer format. Members discussed ways to get information about the meeting to residents.

e. Subdivision applications – Walnut Ridge did not show at scheduled Planning Board Meeting for conceptual design. (Route 40)

f. Open Space

1. Farmland PIG Status

- a. Schroeder – Completing Title Work. Closing expected in early April. Herb will email us to let us know when it happens.
- b. Tamagni – Awaiting survey report
- c. Kibort – Reappraisal to be conducted (Holdcraft/ Hughes Rd)
- d. Petronglo – Filling out application
- e. Olbrich – Attended a meeting on March 24

2. Green Acres and other Open Space

- a. Renwick – Reappraisal to be done
- b. Briar Hill – No action currently
- c. Running Deer – SCIA is not interested; Pete Voros plans to talk with Green Acres tomorrow.
- d. Danna Property – Working with GA for reappraisal
- e. Centerton Lake – Meeting with HOA took place on Wednesday, 3/21/07. Green Acres wants the HOA to buy the land that is for sale along 540. If so, Green Acres will take over the property and the lake and therefore take over responsibility for the dam, spillway, and lake maintenance.

7. Report on area meetings:

- a. March 17- Gardening for Wildlife

8. New Business:

- a. Cluster Ordinance Issues- The Township Ordinance Review Committee has yet to meet.
- b. A letter to PB and Township Engineer has been drafted to reiterate the exclusion of wetlands, wetland transition areas, farmland buffers, drainage basins and other storm water facilities from being used in the calculations of lot yield, and from occupying any portion of lots created in a clustered subdivision. Bob Morse made a motion that with minor corrections, Herb will send this letter to Mark Brunermer and the Planning Board. Tom Figlio seconded the motion. All approved.
- c. DEP filed lawsuit against Salem and Cumberland Counties and The Nature Conservancy regarding their collective responsibility for Willow Grove Lake's dam. There is a dispute about who owns the dam, so the lawsuit was for all three parties. They will each contribute over \$20,000 for a study to determine whether dam needs to be rebuilt or repaired. They may have to lower the water to protect the integrity the dam.
- d. The Ordinance Review subcommittee has been asked to review inconsistencies in the requirement of farmland buffers.
- e. The Township is taking steps to obtain an up-to-date build-out analysis. Meghan Hack made a motion to have Herb apply for a grant from ANJEC to help fund the build-out analysis. Debby is looking for a couple people from the EC to serve on the build-out analysis committee.
- f. Meghan Hack contacted Stephen Serwatka from New Jersey Nature. He will attend Pittsgrove Day with hawks and other wildlife found in Pittsgrove. He will come around noon, and will be paid \$200.
- g. Trish and Meghan are organizing an Earth Day competition for Pittsgrove school children.

9. Upcoming events/meetings/training:

- a. March 31st-SJ Vernal Pool Project. Trish, Meghan, and Debby will be in attendance.
- b. April 26th- Forest Health. Office of Government Services Building

10. Issues before the Planning Board: Members discussed Walnut Ridge and Bridlewood developments. Canals Liquor store has preliminary approval.
11. Communications: None at this time
12. Member Comments:
 - a. Dave's son interviewed Herb for an article he's writing for the Cougar Chronicle. The article is addressing what high school students are doing and can also do to be "greener".
 - b. Bob Morse suggested that we fish for more members. We could definitely use more help!
We should have a sign-up sheet at Pittsgrove Day and other events.
13. Public Comments:
14. Bob Morse made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Figlio seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 pm.