

UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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Seabrook, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Township of Upper Deerfield was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Municipal Building, Seabrook, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order and the following Notice was read:

This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental Commission Of the Township of Upper Deerfield. In compliance with the The Open Public Meetings Act and a schedule of regular meetings Containing the time and location and date of each meeting was Posted in the Municipal Building at Seabrook, New Jersey, which Notice has remained so posted throughout the year and copies of The regular meetings have been mailed to The News of Cumberland County and filed with the Township Clerk in compliance with said Act.

Roll call was taken.

Those present were:

Members: Blake Maloney, Sandra Morrissey, Lynn Maun, Ken Lavine, Steven Smith, Ernest Holt, Eileen Clark, and Alternates: Caroline Owens. and William Waterman.

Staff: Secretary, Teresa Warburton., Liaisons: John T. O'Neill, and Bruce Peterson.

NEW BUSINESS

Reorganization

Meeting was turned over to secretary, Teresa Warburton to open nominations for Chairperson.

On motion of Ken Lavine, seconded by Steve Smith to approve Chairman Blake Maloney, unanimously carried.

On motion of Ken Lavine, seconded by Eileen Clark to approve Vice Chairman Sandra Morrissey, unanimously carried.

Chairman – Blake Maloney
Vice Chairman – Sandra Morrissey

On motion of Ken Lavine, seconded by Sandra Morrissey to approve the minutes of December 7, 2011, unanimously carried

On motion of Ken Lavine, seconded by William Waterman to approve the meeting dates for 2012.

1. Correspondence –

- a) PIG Grants – Blake Maloney thanked Matt Pisarski for all his help this past year with the grant and again we will be applying to the state for funding for 2012.
- b) Township Planning Board ordinance updates – need to review and submit any changes, the last review was in 2008 Blake and Sandy will put something together and report back at the February meeting..
- c) DEP expands Land Use E-Permitting – contact Blake if interested and he will forward the details..

2. Zone updates – NONE

3. Legislative Issues

a. A4335/S3156 Water Quality Bill –Passed in both houses. Blake gave an underlying rationale of why the bill had to pass in order to prevent the DEP from being in violation of their own regulations. There was further discussion among the committee members concerning the bills that are coming out of the legislature that bypass local rule. The committee encouraged everyone to send letters to their representatives and address their concerns. Next bill coming up is A2486/S1986 where the Federal environmental regulations will apply instead of New Jersey's more stringent EPA regulations. This bill is being sponsored by Burzichelli and Van Drew.

b. Vetoes of farmland wind turbines – Governor Christie vetoed this bill.

4. Workshops/Goals

a. workshop committee – still working on a list for 2012 please contact the committee if you have any suggestions for 2012 workshops.

b. Goals for 2012 –on motion of Lynn Maun seconded by William Waterman to approve and adopt goals for 2012, unanimously carried.

4. Committee Reports

a. Planning board/Zoning Board – ordinance review to report back for February meeting and Sunset Lake, LLC in December meeting the age restriction was removed.

b. Recreation Commission – Reorganization meeting is set for January 16, 2012. Currently looking into each area of recreation to see how many residents vs. non-residents to see if more land is necessary.

c. Economic Development – No Report.

d. Open Space Advisory Committee – meeting was held on 1/11/12 to get an idea of where to go and everyone has an assignment next meeting set for 4/4/12 at 6pm.

e. Cohansey River Watershed Task Force – Blake thanked Caroline Owens for getting the Township to support Rutgers and American Littoral Society's application to the US EPA Urban Waters small grants. Caroline reported that the next meeting will be after the application has been submitted.

5. Unfinished Business –

- a. Trash and Debris Project – Sandy and Bill requested postponement till the February meeting.
- b. Trash problem after games in parking lots and grandstands – the trash problem seems to be after games in the parking lots and grandstands and was brought to Ken Lavine, Recreation Chairperson’s attention to be addressed.
- c. Dooley Holt – to draft a letter for Husted Station Road about the trash accumulation to have to discuss for February meeting.

Review & Status of Development Application

None

Member’s Comments

William Waterman – the legislation that deals with minimal EPA standards I recommend to oppose this whole heartily to maintain local control. A2486/S1986 State Regulations and Township regulations removed and follow minimal Federal regulations. On another note residential development is not going to fix the economy that is what put us in the economic conditions we are in now. A4128/S2950 is legislation for zoning of a property which shows changes to side step local review and follows minimum guidelines as well.

Public Comments

Nancy Ridgeway thanked Bill, Sandy and Becky for the reading materials as they did not go unread. Ms. Ridgeway congratulated the environmental commission for the great job they do. Westrum will be returning to Upper Deerfield in March, they went to the county with 120 homes but it will be 160 homes not sure if they will have to go back to the County Planning Board. At the last county freeholders meeting Bill Whelan told the road department that they should be making the Environmental Commissions aware of any projects that involve trees in that perspective township.

Becky McCubbin- asked on the ordinances would it be possible to prevent a developer from removing the soil from unsold lots. Bruce Peterson commented that the soil has to be removed as per the State Soil Conservation District requirements with a soil erosion plan and silt fencing requirements.

Ms. McCubbin also asked how does or should the township find out the solvency of a builder prior to a project. Mr. Peterson responded that the township is not permitted to look into the financial responsibility of an applicant.

There being no further business to come before the Board on motion of Ken Lavine, seconded by Eileen Clark to adjourn at 8:45 pm, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Warburton
Secretary