

**Union Township Environmental Commission
Minutes of the December 11, 2007 Regular Meeting**

The December 11, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Union Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:05 PM.

The notice of meeting as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier-News satisfied the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, and was also posted in the Municipal Building, on the Union Township website and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

I. Roll call:

Present: Bob Beylickjian (after 8:00 PM), Kathleen Corcoran, Alan Ford, Bill Harclerode, Stephen Hurford, Brian Kirkpatrick, Michele McBride, Robert Nargi

Absent: Sandy Stiger

Public: Daniel Minzer, Louan Minzer
(Mr. Harclerode, as Alternate 1, voted in Ms. Stiger's absence, and Ms. Corcoran, as Alternate 2, voted in Mr. Beylickjian's absence until he arrived at 8:00 PM. Kirkpatrick's absence)

II. Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2007 meeting was moved by Mr. Hurford and seconded by Ms. McBride, and approved by a 6-0 vote, with Mr. Kirkpatrick abstaining.

III. Old Business:

1. Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Harclerode both reported that they have sent comments on the draft Mulhockaway Stormwater Management and Stream Restoration Plan. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted that the plan calls for restoration of a swale on the old school property that had been filled for safety reasons some years ago.

IV. Correspondence:

1. Announcement of December 13, 2007 Highlands Council meeting in Chester at 4 PM.
2. Request from the Hunterdon County Sustainability Working Group requesting information on existing or draft ordinances encouraging renewable and sustainable energy strategies. (We have none.)
3. Notice concerning stream encroachment application on Kennedy property
4. Announcement that applications for ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grants (to fund land use planning projects) will be distributed in January.

V. New Business:

1. Resident Ted Frankenbach's letter to the Township Committee concerning train whistles at the Perryville Road crossing was referred to UTEC. Mr. Harclerode will review the situation and report to UTEC in January.
2. Mr. Nargi led a discussion of the decision that Union Township must make in determining whether elect that lands in the Highlands Planning Area would be covered under the Act. (Note that lands in the Protection Area are covered with no option for the township.) The role of UTEC is to recommend an action to the Township Committee. Ms. McBride volunteered to study the materials and present to UTEC in January a summary of the requirements, advantages and disadvantages of a decision to adopt or not adopt.
3. Mr. Nargi noted that a public hearing would be held at 6PM on February 13 at Voorhees High School on the proposed plan regulations.

VI. Chairman's Report:

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1. Mr. Nargi reported that he attended a Greentable on stormwater management, and provided copies of the PowerPoint presentation to UTEC for information.
2. Mr. Nargi reported that the boundary survey of the Milligan property had been completed. This step allows the receipt of \$875,000 in Green Acres funding. In addition, funding of \$800,000 from the NJWA and \$1 million from the county is pending.
3. Mr. Nargi reported that he had attended a county meeting on recycling. Questions have been raised concerning how the percentage of waste being recycled was determined. However, improvements in recycling should be encouraged. Ms. McBride reported that she had checked on some of the practices with present trash contractors in the township. She determined that two, RVD and Smith Brothers, presently picked up recycling from customers, but that Kasper did not. She noted that Kasper had agreed to pick up recyclables in Franklin. After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick and approved by a 7-0 vote that UTEC would recommend to the Township Committee that Kasper be contacted and requested to provide services to township customers. Ms. McBride will draft the letter to the committee and provide it to Mr. Nargi for approval and distribution on the UTEC letterhead. (Note that this procedure is to be followed for all written communications from UTEC).
4. Mr. Nargi reported that he had worked with John Reymann and Toll Brothers on the replacement of dead trees in the Sanctuary. Toll Brothers has replaced those trees as requested.
5. Mr. Nargi noted that DEP was offering federal funds that would reimburse a qualifying landowner with up to \$3000 to develop a forestry management plan.
6. Mr. Nargi reported that he had worked with Carl Hintz to develop a plan for the tree replacement that the Grand Colonial is providing. Some trees will be located on site, and others will be located along Perryville Road in Finn Park.
7. Mr. Nargi reported that he had worked with Carl Hintz to develop alternative full cutoff lighting for the Grand Colonial site. He will also recommend similar lighting be used on the Renaissance site in accordance with township lighting ordinance. A presentation on full cutoff lighting to the Planning Board is recommended.
8. Mr. Nargi reported that the county transportation group was in the process of reforming, and that he would report back after they meet.
9. Mr. Nargi provided pictures taken by Ms. Corcoran on Frontage Road of erosion and clogged culvert issues.

VII. Committee Reports:

Open Space Committee:

1. Ms. McBride reported that she would bring recommended changes in the Open Space Plan to the January UTEC meeting.
2. Ms. McBride also reported that she will be meeting with township officials and a representative of LUCARS to determine how the system can meet our needs

Equestrian Trails:

No report.

Planning Board:

1. Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that he would be reviewing the Perryville Group warehouse application and the McCoy driveway variance application.
2. Mr. Nargi noted that the Pattenburg Quarry was recycling roadway millings.

Property Management:

1. Mr. Beylickjian reported that he would be meeting with the roofer on Sunday. The roof needs to be replaced, but does not leak at this time.
2. Discussion on the long-term use for the Hoffman buildings followed. Mr. Kirkpatrick recommended that an RFP be issued to incorporate a renovation and operation plan that

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would minimize township involvement in operating the site, and agreed to assist with drafting the essential parts of the RFP for presentation to the Township Committee.

Noise:

1. Mr. Nargi reported that the letter with the proposed truck-braking ordinance was provided to the Township Committee.
2. Mr. Harclerode reported that he sent an email communication to NJDOT concerning the acceleration and type of materials to be used in the I78 repaving project. The Freeholders and Mr. Mazza have been involved with discussion on these matters as well.
3. Mr. Harclerode also reported that he had contacted the Bloomsbury Truck Inspection Station concerning inspections, and was assured that they were paying close attention to muffler requirements.

Sidney Brook 319 Project:

1. Mr. Nargi provided a copy of the proposed access permission letter to UTEC for comment. Mr. Ford noted that the document still contains the “negative response” wording that we had indicated was not acceptable.
2. Mr. Nargi reported that the DEP QAPP visual inspection protocol would be used. This will involve walking about 12 2miles of reach, and looking to 300 feet on each side of the streams.

Newsletter:

1. Ms. McBride is working on the draft and has good material. She still is looking for more articles from township offices.
2. Mr. Nargi suggested that we offer well testing again in the spring, and announce this in the newsletter.
3. Ms. McBride presented a proposed solicitation for newsletter advertisement. Mr. Ford moved, Mr. Beylickjian seconded and UTEC passed by a 7-0 vote that the draft be approved.
4. Ms. McBride reported she is working on developing an opt-in email list for distributing UTEC information to residents, including newsletters, information and a possible blog.

VIII. **Hearing of Citizens:**

Mr. and Mrs. Minzer discussed opportunities for the township to adopt “green” programs, such as those offered by the Sierra Club (Cool Communities) and Stop the Soot regarding engine idling. Ms. Minzer was invited to help with an article for the newsletter.

IX. **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the municipal building.

X. **Adjournment:**

Mr. Nargi asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:11 PM. It was moved by Mr. Kirkpatrick, seconded by Mr. Beylickjian, and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Ford, Secretary