

**HOPATCONG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2006**

The meeting of the Hopatcong Environmental Commission was opened by Mary Takacs at 7:33 p.m. with a statement that this meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq., annual notice having been forwarded to The New Jersey Herald, The Sunday Herald and The Daily Record and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Bernice Gleason
Pat Gleason
Sam Hoagland
Elizabeth Mauro
Malcolm Piester
Mary Takacs
ABSENT: Sharon Gruber

Also in attendance were:

Mayor Richard Hodson
Council Liaison, Madeline McManus

Mary Takacs led the Salute to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 26, 2006 MINUTES

Malcolm Piester made a motion to approve the July 26, 2006 minutes. Pat Gleason seconded the motion and all were in favor with Sam Hoagland abstaining.

HAZMAT

August 18, 2006 – 4 Lawrie Ave.; cleanup pending.
September 14, 2006 – 255 Carenton Rd.; remediation pending.
September 15, 2006 – 21 Winding Hill Rd.; cleanup pending.
Durban Ave.; tank removed, cleanup underway.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mary announced that there is a workshop for "Implementing the State TDR Act" on October 19, 2006. ANJEC workshop "Getting the Job Done" for the environment on October 28, 2006. Mary has the Musconetcong River News available if anyone is interested.

Mary Takacs also has a letter of interpretation dated September 20, 2006 concerning the property at 27 Fordham Trail for a general permit authorization.

There is a trail hike at Hudson Farm on October 21, 2006, in conjunction with Byram Township. Malcolm Piester signed up as a hiking guide. Malcolm discussed what you should take with you if you decide to make this hike and also what you will see.

Malcolm also stated who and where the money proceeds will be going. Malcolm discussed his conversation with the Byram Environmental Commission and the possibility of combining some of the trails in Byram and Hopatcong. Malcolm is meeting with the Byram Environmental Commission on September 28, 2006 to further discuss the combining of the trails.

Malcolm Piester would also like to mention and discuss reactivating the gun range on Mohawk Trail. Malcolm said that he spoke to Police Chief John Swanson on this issue.

Mayor Hodson discussed the limits and possibilities of this matter.

Malcolm attended the Mayor and Council meeting and spoke on behalf of a concerned citizen and mentioned that air conditioners are difficult to recycle and what to do if you want to dispose of them. Railroad connections for garbage transfer were also discussed. The Open Space Committee approved additional spending for additional walkways and also to erect a Memorial Wall by the Freedom Tree. Malcolm mentioned having a charity fund or an organized hike to benefit the Fire Department, the First Aid Squad or the School District.

STATUS REPORT

Elizabeth Mauro reported the happenings at the Open Space Meeting on September 7, 2006. The Freedom Tree was discussed as well as the Trails Plan. Open Space is forming a Trails Plan Committee. Elizabeth reported that there was an Off Road Vehicle Ordinance Program. Malcolm Piester is questioning the length of time the lights are going to be on at the Freedom Tree. Mayor Hodson reported that the lights would be directed at the tree and not the houses. The Mayor also discussed the Memorial Wall and the implementing of the Trails Plan as soon as possible. The two projects will be at Modick Park and a walkway at Veteran's Field. Mayor Hodson discussed the two documents that the Planning Board is working on. One is an addendum to the NRI and the other was that they were asked to look at the zoning on Sparta/Stanhope Road.

Mayor Hodson went over the "Off Road Vehicle Ordinances" because Sharon Gruber was questioning this issue. The Mayor is hoping to get a draft out to the Environmental Commission.

Other issues discussed were that of a copy of an ordinance is going to Council next week regarding smoking. The Recreation Commission had asked that an ordinance be drafted to prohibit smoking on athletic fields.

Mayor Hodson mentioned that he wants to discuss "Litter" in Hopatcong. The Mayor is having signs made and during the month of November he would like to have a litter campaign. The Mayor is requesting a few names from the Environmental Commission to be part of the litter campaign as well as other organizations to become involved.

Mayor Hodson announced that the Highlands Planning Council is suppose to come out with the Master Plan for the Highlands Region. The draft is due at the end of October. The Mayor, the Environmental Commission and the public discussed zoning issues and the lot sizes.

ADJOURN

Sam Hoagland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Elizabeth Mauro seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Submitted by,

Marie Filoso
Recording Secretary