

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
WARREN COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Municipal Offices: 211 Route 31 North, Washington, NJ 07882 (908) 689-7209

MEETING MINUTES: January 28, 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE was given through publication in the **Star Gazette** and **Express Times**. Notice was also posted on the municipal bulletin board in the Township Administration Building in Washington Township, New Jersey, and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance: Charlie Shields, Ron Greenwald, Marilyn Sendell, Al Ivany

Excused – Cheryl Burket

Absent: Lydia Schmidt

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ron Greenwald to accept the September 2013 minutes. Marilyn Sendell seconded. All were in favor. A motion was then made by Marilyn Sendell to accept the October 2013 minutes. Charlie Shields seconded. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding the Pohatcong Valley Superfund site.

NEW BUSINESS

The reorganization meeting was held. Al Ivany was reappointed Chairman by the Township Committee.

Township Administrator Pete DeBoer was present to discuss the completion of the Highlands Environmental Resource Inventory. Township Planner Scarlett Doyle will now be working with the Environmental Commission to complete the document, and will attend the February meeting.

A recommendation was made to appoint Cheryl Burket to the Warren County Morris Canal Master Plan Committee. Chairman Ivany made the motion. Marilyn Sendell seconded. All were in favor.

The Chariman was contacted by a member of the Hampton (Hunterdon County) Environmental Commission as they had concerns about their well head protection area, as Washington Township is not opting in to the Highlands Planning area. Discussion was held regarding this, and it was agreed the Environmental Commission would make note of this for future planning.

Discussion was held regarding issues with the Changewater area of the Township and health concerns regarding water in that area. Some residents have been experiencing health issues they believe is related to water quality. The NJDEP has been studying this, and a Health Department report has been generated. Nothing conclusive has been determined at this point, but the Environmental Commission will continue to monitor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Ivany made the motion to open the public comment period. That motion was seconded by Marilyn Sendell. All were in favor.

Robert Finke of Jockey Hollow Road in Washington Township was present. He commented regarding the Hampton well head issue and commented that perhaps Hampton could contribute to preserving properties of concern in Washington Township. He also mentioned the nitrate dilution model in regards to Highlands issues, and that it would also control density of development.

Joel Schnetzer of Cemetery Hill Road in Washington Township was present. He asked about the Highlands amended grant in relation to the Preservation area. Mr. Schnetzer also commented that the dual appraisal system for preservation of properties in the Highlands will be expiring on June 30, and that anyone interested in preserving their land should apply now, as there are no guarantees the legislation will be reauthorized. He also suggested the Township Committee begin a comprehensive Farmland Preservation program in the Township.

Township Administrator Pete DeBoer added the Township staff is available to help the Environmental Commission with any issues they need assistance on.

A motion was made to close the public comment period by Marilyn Sendell and seconded by Charlie Shields. All were in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by Ron Greenwald to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Shields seconded. All were in favor. 8:20 p.m.