

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

The meeting was opened at 7:40 p.m. by Chairman Baker. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended, and notice has been forwarded to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board maintained at the Sussex County Administrative Center for public announcement.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Chairman
Denise Webb, Wantage Township, Vice Chair
James Landrith, Andover Borough
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Ryan Earley, Sandyston Township
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough 7:43 p.m.
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Ernie Hofer, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large

STAFF MEMBERS: Autumn Sylvester, Acting Director
Alice Brees, Principal Planner
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Christopher Carbone, Stillwater Township

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by David Muscalo to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2015. The motion was seconded by Ernie Hofer. All were in favor, with abstentions from Keith Gourlay, Ryan Earley and John Nugent. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence which was included in the mailing.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Ms. Brees reported that Eric Snyder retired at the end of January. She introduced Autumn Sylvester, who is the Acting Director. Vernon Township is working on their proposed expansion to the sewer area. Frankford Township will be coming in with a site-specific amendment to add 17 lots to their sewer area. Frankford Township is caught in between the old rules expiring and the adoption of the new rules.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. DEP REVIEW OF COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP) AND MUNICIPAL CHAPTERS:

Ms. Brees said that she has been getting comments from DEP on three towns and said that the comments are relatively minor. She said she may contact the towns if she needs help answering any of the comments when going through the municipal chapters. Revisions should go back to DEP in May.

B. PROPOSED DEP RULES FOR WATER QUALITY PLANNING:

The existing rules that had been adopted in 2008 expired in mid-January. The comment period ended and currently the DEP is working on their responses to comments for the new rules. They will be publishing the comments and responses in the New Jersey Register. DEP cannot take any action on our Wastewater Plan until the new rules are adopted.

C. SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: EXISTING LAWS FOR INSPECTIONS DURING REAL PROPERTY TRANSFERS:

Ms. Brees said PAC discussed this topic at the last meeting. Rick Gottemoller sent a copy of the current law, as of 2012. The law basically said that during the time of a real estate transaction, septic systems are inspected and if there is a cesspool, it is required to be replaced.

D. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Rachel Posavetz said that she is with Ameri Corps Watershed Ambassador Program. They do environmental education and outreach. She is available to help with any projects related to watershed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. **GRANT FOR SUSSEX COUNTY CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP PLAN – PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES:**

Autumn Sylvester, the Acting County Planning Director, said the County received a grant from the William Penn Foundation to update its Open Space Plan. The Land Conservancy is working with the Open Space Committee to update the plan. The Wallkill River Management Group is also working on this project.

The plan is in two parts. The first part will identify areas that protect water resources through the development of a GIS model. The second part is a stewardship plan, which includes restoration projects and watershed stewardship plans. A more dynamic approach is planned instead of a typical policy approach plan document.

The consultant is developing GIS model and maps to highlight areas that are water resource based. On February 25, the Open Space Committee will hold a hearing where both consultants will be presenting the second draft of the GIS model.

Fifteen different characteristics were utilized to identify areas important to water resource protection. During the Open Space Committee's December meeting, the first five characteristics were discussed. The February meeting will have updates to the first five characteristics and the second group of characteristics and the related mapping will be presented and reviewed.

When asked about the characteristics, Autumn said the focus areas were: to protect hydrological resources; protect stream and aquifer quality; protect aquatic ecosystem functions; and maintain riparian areas. Nathaniel Sajdak will be preparing the project stewardship outline and recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ernie Hofer discussed a DEP project slated for Sparta Mountain which involves a stewardship and maintenance plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kathy Little. The motion was seconded by Richard Gottemoller and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.