



**COLTS NECK
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION**

124 Cedar Drive
Colts Neck, NJ 07722

**Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2010**

Members

Present – David Kostka, Liaison Mike Fitzgerald, Vincent Domidion, Thomas Hennessey and Mary Massey

Absent – Sashe Annete and John Vig

Associates

Present –

Absent –Pat Anderson

Guest – Pamela McGuire

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mr. Kostka who read the following statement. “In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, public notice of this meeting has been provided by publication of an annual notice in the Asbury Park Press and posting of this notice on the bulletin board at Town Hall.”

The minutes of the January 4, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion offered by Mr. Domidion and seconded by Mrs. Massey.

PLANNING BOARD

Application by Birdsall, PB663A, Block 46, Lot 16, was continued by the Planning Board because of insufficient detail provided by applicant. The original deed restricts medical offices to the first floor, and applicant requests permission for use of second floor for medical offices. Property currently has 20 parking spaces, and 23 would be required if the new usage is approved. Applicant was unable to explain to the Planning Board exactly what would be on the second floor, and whether it would be used by the applicant’s own medical staff, or let out to others. Mr. Kostka noted that this application constitutes a “self-imposed hardship.”

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Domidion reported that Eric Anderson of Monmouth County G.I.S. met with Township officials last week to explain the County G.I.S. mapping project and possibilities for its use by the Township. Mr. Domidion noted that because of the flexibility of various base maps and overlays, the maps can be used to integrate land use planning with natural systems. Further, they can be used to build watershed identity and awareness. It will be a few months before the maps are available on-line at the Township, as additional computer storage space is needed.

Mr. Kostka contacted Township Administrator Bob Bowden who indicated that JCP&L was doing some work in the Shafto Road area and that he was keeping an eye on that situation but was not concerned at the moment. He was informed that JCP&L intends only to do an evaluation at this time. Mr. Domidion noted that the last time that their representative visited the Township, Mr. Domidion requested that he be invited to accompany them on subsequent visits.

Mr. Kostka contacted the organization that installed the solar collectors at IEEE. It was explained that the process is complicated and there is no guarantee of being cost-free. A combination of rebates and stimulus funds can be used through an LLC that is formed for the purpose. A large use of electricity is necessary to make use of the program in the fashion of IEEE. Mr. Kostka will investigate building codes about solar collectors, and contact the local and regional school superintendents to inquire whether they might be willing to pursue these opportunities, before inviting the installer to visit.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hennessy reported that the Township Recreation Board has declared February as Fossil Month. The Colts Neck Library will have rotating exhibits of fossils found in Big Brook by students. On February 25, there will be a presentation by a vocational paleontologist. Mr. Hennessy noted that fossils are a renewable resource, as freezing and thawing of stream banks continue to bring up more fossils.

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Fitzgerald initiated discussion of long-term plans for the Environmental Commission. Mr. Kostka stated that we discussed this topic at the January meeting and asked each member to suggest goals for us to consider for 2010. Mr. Domidion suggested Environment Awareness to inform residents of the various watersheds and other environmental aspects of Colts Neck. Mrs. Massey suggested a program to inform potential buyers of property of the various environmental and zoning issues relating to Colts Neck, such as the tree cutting ordinances etc.

Mr. Fitzgerald will investigate having these regulations posted on the Township web site. Mr. Hennessey suggested an Educational Awareness Program to inform residents of the location and proper use of our natural resources and public lands. Citizens should use natural resources appropriately; however, the boundaries of public easements are often not clear. Locations of public property should be determined, their condition investigated, decisions made regarding maintenance, and the public educated in this regard.

Mr. Kostka asked the members to consider each of these goals and that we would discuss them further and prioritize them at the March meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Purple martin equipment brochure
Notice of 2010 smart growth planning grant for municipalities
Notice of Rutgers environmental law seminar

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting 7:30 pm –March 1, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Terry, Secretary

