



Meeting Minutes November 5, 2007

Members

Present –David Kostka, Vincent Domidion, Liaison Thomas Hennessey, John Vig

Absent –Sashe Annete, David Paddock, Mary Massey

Associates

Present - Gisela Anderl

Absent – Pat Anderson

Visitors

Jennifer and Glen Axelrod

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 August 27, 2007 and October 1, 2007 minutes were held for the next meeting.

Mr. Kostka welcomed Glen and Jennifer Axelrod, who were invited to share with the Commission what measures they take at home to be environmentally responsible. They stated that there are many energy-saving measures people can take that are both simple and inexpensive. They take the following measures at their home:

1. They are planning to install a solar collection system. It will be a fixed system facing the rising sun. A moveable unit is not efficient or cost-effective except in a locale that is very sunny year-round. They first installed one at their plant in Neptune City when they erected a 300,000 sq. ft. addition. They plan to connect their electric meter to their web site. There are tax benefits including a tax credit of 30% of the cost for businesses and a \$2,000.00 tax credit to homeowners.
2. They compost all vegetable kitchen waste. Mr. Axelrod said that kitchen waste comprises one-third of all garbage. Composting saves on the energy used to haul waste to landfills. The County Recycling Office sells composting bins at a very low price.
3. They mulch their leaves so they don't have to be hauled. The leaves turn into topsoil.
4. They have chosen to purchase power for their home through the “green power network.” In this way, their electric provider purchases the amount their home uses from renewable sources. They support one-third wind power, one-third solar power, and one-third power from burning of landfill gas. This costs only 2-3 cents per kilowatt hour. They chose this as mitigation for their large home. In this way, their use of electric power has no carbon footprint.

5. Their pond could produce CO² if left alone. For this reason, they have installed an aeration system. The pond is healthy and is a net oxygen producer.
6. They use only organic fertilizer and pest controls. The organic pest controls are not a 100% solution to house and garden pests, but about 70 to 90% without much compromise. Mr. Axelrod stated that inorganic pesticides can mimic estrogens, which are linked to breast cancer.
7. Their home is split into seven heating and air-conditioning zones. In winter, the unused parts are kept at 55°, not 72°, and in summer those parts are kept at 82°, not 68°. They feel they are healthier in a cooler environment.
8. They have three vehicles, and since Mrs. Axelrod needs a SUV, they purchased a hybrid, a Toyota Highlander, that gets 32 mpg in town.
9. They buy local produce. They shop at a farmers' market in Red Bank to save the energy it would take to haul this food from farther away. Mr. Axelrod said that eating local honey inoculates one for local pollens.
10. They don't use either paper or plastic for bringing home purchases. They use canvas bags that are reusable and save energy.
11. They avoid use of disposables, even when hosting large parties. When necessary to use disposables, they purchase biodegradable products made of wheat or corn starch.
12. They have converted from incandescent to fluorescent bulbs. Mr. Axelrod stated that more energy goes into heat than into light from incandescent bulbs.

Mr. & Mrs. Axelrod believe that industry responds to market forces, and that the public must demonstrate that they want energy efficiency. Mrs. Axelrod said "Use your dollar to send a message."

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Hennessy reported that he has been appointed to the Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners.

PLANNING BOARD

Robert DeFalco Realty, Block 46, Lot 11, is a new application for a real estate office on County Route 537 at the former Honey Shop. The existing building has 3,000 sq. ft., which would require 15 parking spaces. The applicant proposes a deed restriction by which the basement would not be used, reducing required parking for the proposal to 10 parking spaces, and requests a variance for only seven spaces, as no more can fit on the property. Shared parking with neighboring lot would probably not work. The application is environmentally unacceptable due to increased amount of traffic and increased queueing of traffic, with attendant emissions.

Brock, Block 31.01, Lot 7, has reduced the proposed building from two-story to single-story. There are no significant environmental impacts.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Domidion reported that he is the Commission's representative to the Monmouth County watershed grant project. He demonstrated a series of three colored maps. One is a compilation of tax maps indicating the usage and status of each lot, ex., greenways, farmland preservation. A second map is a soils map with the soils plotted in similar hues of increasing darkness according to type, the darker indicating steeper slopes. The third map is a GIS map

with overlays. Mr. Domidion suggested that these three maps can be valuable for a broad spectrum of uses.

NEW BUSINESS/ CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Kostka announced that the Township budget is under consideration. Mr. Vig asked if an additional purple martin house could be ordered during November, at a savings of 12.5%. Prepayment is required. Mr. Hennessy will take this request to the Township Committee. The house would be placed at Bucks Mill Park. A volunteer has agreed to be the caretaker of the house.

The 2008 schedule was discussed. All meetings will be on the first Monday of the month except September. The first Monday of September is Labor Day, so the meeting will be on the first Tuesday, at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Domidion motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm. Mr. Vig seconded the motion, which unanimously passed.

Next Meeting 7:30 pm – Monday, December 3, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Terry, Secretary

