

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
WARREN COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

MEETING MINUTES: August 13, 2013

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 – 7:48 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In Attendance – Cheryl Burket, Charle Shields, Al Ivany, Lydia Schmidt, Marilyn Sendell
Excused – Ron Greenwald

In Attendance for the Township Committee – Bob Finke

MINUTES

No minutes were available.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

The meeting was dedicated solely to Highlands plan discussion and whether the Environmental Commission should recommend to the Land Use Board and Township Committee that the Township opt in to the planning area or not. After an intense discussion it was decided by unanimous vote after Cheryl Burket made the motion and Lydia Schmidt seconded, that the Environmental Commission recommend that the Township of Washington not opt in to the Highlands planning area at this time, and instead revisit the Township Master Plan and work with all boards to develop the best planning document possible for Washington Township without relinquishing home rule. This includes the re-establishment of a Township Open Space and Farmland Preservation Commission to aggressively pursue funds to preserve critical lands in the township, especially farmland; encouraging the redevelopment of vacant commercial areas along Route 57 and 31, and that the Township pursue Highlands conformance regarding the Preservation area only. Concerns were also expressed that, although we are told opting in to the planning area is voluntary, and the Township can opt out at any time, there are many questions regarding this procedure (especially since it has never been done.) Landowner equity issues were also discussed.

The Chairman will attend the upcoming Land Use Board meeting and voice these concerns and make the appropriate recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was opened for public comment. Al Ivany made the motion with Cheryl Burket seconding. All were in favor. Upon hearing no members of the public, the public portion of the meeting was then closed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A motion was made by Marilyn Sendell and seconded by Charlie Shields. All were in favor. 9:45 p.m.