

## **Minutes**

TOCC Environment Committee Meeting

May 7, 2009

Committee members attending: Vicky Taplin, Chair, Coralee Hoffman, Jean Shorett, Missy Goldberg, Joan Rood, Tom Heath, Michael Payne  
Staff attending: Warren Rizzi

### Water Ordinance

The Subcommittee discussed its work on assessing the Town's water ordinance. The Subcommittee has been developing a list of issues that might be ultimately presented to the Town Council for further work or possible revisions to the current ordinance. These issues include permeability standards, maintenance of infiltration tanks, and performance expectations for builders who install infiltration devices on properties in the Town. In addition, the Subcommittee noted that new State regulations have recently been enacted that may affect existing County and Town requirements. There was general discussion of which issues might require additional advice from experts or legal authorities and which could be effectively analyzed by residents on the Subcommittee. The Committee chair, Vicky Taplin, will work with the Committee's liaison from the Council and with the Town's lawyer to provide for the necessary analysis of State and County laws and regulations. The subcommittee will prepare a more complete listing of issues, with fuller description, for further discussion a future Environment Committee meeting.

### Noise Initiative

The Town has initiated a range of educational activities on County noise limits, including outreach to both residents and lawn service companies. Warren Rizzi provided drafts of the first of a series of items planned for the Forecast to help inform residents about the noise initiative, as well as a draft letter to lawn service companies explaining the Town's noise initiative and inviting them to participate in discussions with Town staff. Committee members were asked to send comments and suggestions on items the staff is preparing. In addition, Warren circulated a list of some 50 lawn service companies working in the County that will receive the letter from the Town. The Committee recommended that staff also invite Town residents to send in the names of lawn service companies they know are working in the Town so that staff can ensure that all are included in the educational effort. Other Committee efforts underway are creation of a packet of information for residents that would include ideas for lowering noise levels and contain a card describing the kind of information residents can send to the Town office to help track and document noise problems in the Town.

### Tree Subcommittee

Tom Heath reported on efforts last fall and so far this spring to plant approximately 120 new canopy trees in the Town right of way. In November of 2007, the Town Council voted to end the policy of allowing residents to veto trees planned for the right of way.

When a resident objects to the addition of a new tree in the right of way, members of the Tree subcommittee meet with the resident to explain the planting program and try to respond to concerns. This has been a very successful effort, resulting in the planting 85% of the trees to which objections were raised. During the past few months, the subcommittee deferred planting only 3 or 4 trees due to significant issues raised by the affected residents. Most residents were amenable to the trees once the purpose of the program was explained by their neighbors.

#### Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved minutes from the March, 2009 Committee meeting. The Committee discussed a suggestion to try to standardize and simplify the minutes from Committee meetings so as to make easier to follow for residents who did not attend. It was suggested that less be included on the particulars of back and forth discussion by committee members, in favor of greater emphasis on listing issues raised and describing actions to be taken.

Respectfully submitted,  
Coralee Hoffman