



UPCOMING EVENTS

Household Hazardous Waste Clean-up and Computer Parts/Electronics Collection -

Sunday, April 20, 2008 and
Sunday, October 5, 2008 -
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Warren County District Land-fill
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, Oxford,
NJ (Off of Rt 31 - approximately
1 mile south of Rt 46)

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 26th - Lineup at 9:30
am - Parade starts 10 AM sharp
- forming at Stewarts Hunt Development
proceeding down Main Street to the
Legion - Ceremony following parade
at Legion

Municipal Building Closed:

May 26th - Memorial Day

Recycling Center

3rd Saturday of each month from
9am - 12 noon at the old school parking
lot

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Township Committee:

Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm

Planning Board:

Meets 2nd Wednesday at 7:30 pm
Chairman Tom Bolger

Board of Adjustment:

Meets 2nd Thursday at 7:30 pm
Chairman Ray Buckwalter

Recreation Committee:

Meets 2nd Monday at 7:30 pm

Historical Committee:

Meets 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Environmental Committee:

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Capital Projects Committee:

4th Wednesday at 7:30 pm

MARCH 2008

NEWSLETTER

Move over FDR, the new Greenwich Township Committee is trying to match your record of early productivity in its first 60 days in office.

"Members of this township committee are working together," said Mayor Elaine Emiliani who noted that the committee has unanimously passed a number of initiatives to move forward township objectives. "We're moving forward to get the job done."

One of the most important projects the committee has approved in the early going is an agreement with the Morris Land Conservancy to do an open space assessment for the township. The plan will align an approach to open space and farmland acquisition in accordance with the objectives and priorities outlined in the master plan. The plan will also outline the tentative costs of the projects. The plan has been a six year objective for the township said the mayor.

So far the township has preserved approximately 806 acres of land including approximately 548 acres of farmland in the past decade. The township is hoping to preserve 1,147 acres in the future including 1000 acres of farmland in the future. The cost of the project is \$17,000 and Greenwich Township is applying to the state for an ANJEC Grant in the amount of \$8,500 to offset the cost.

The township has already benefited from a county initiative -the Paris grant earlier this year that allowed the township to do an assessment of its records said Committeeman Jim Adams. He said the grant identified records the municipality is not required to keep. This will increase storage space for the township and reduce its legal liability as the township will not be liable for the well being of unnecessary records.

Another significant change approved by this year's committee is the implementation of a new "sunshine committee" composed of committee members, realtors and important community groups. The new committee is designed to meet and greet new residents with a gift basket filled with information about the township. The committee will keep track of the new residents by following home sales. "The things in the basket will help acclimate them (new residents) to the town and its history and the concerns of being a resident of Stewartville," said Joe Gurneak.

Other achievements of the new committee include endorsing the Route 57 Corridor for a federally environmentally protected scenic corridor designation, renewing a contract with the school district to provide snow plowing to the district at cost, re-codifying the township's code book for the first time since 1979, agreeing to explore sharing services with neighboring municipalities and drafting new rules for the planning and zoning boards.

Finally, the township under the leadership of Tanya Segal has launched this newsletter and will have a new website address by the end of the month — www.greenwich.org a move from www.greenwich.com. The new web domain will be cheaper at \$15 dollars per month, down from \$65 the township had been paying, and be more convenient for residents. This website will contain direct links to websites of all township agencies and services including the school district.

2008 BUDGET UPDATE

The Greenwich Township Committee is working to minimize a \$97,000 reduction in state aid in this year's budget process.

"We're doing everything we can do to cut," said Mayor Elaine Emiliani of this year's budget cycle. "We're looking (for savings) under every rock."

The spending cuts are needed because the state is most likely going to cut about \$97,000 from Greenwich's state aid allocation. While the state has not yet released official figures, Emiliani said the township's financial experts have figured out the \$97,000 shortfall according to the funding formula for municipalities with 5,000 to 10,000 residents released by Governor Jon Corzine. Greenwich Township has 5,209 residents. Even if a greater amount is somehow eventually awarded, the committee must proceed by anticipating the large cut because the state's budget cycle doesn't start until July 1 by which time the town's budget will be introduced.

Emiliani believes that the town can absorb the hit without a reduction in services by looking for redundancies in the budget. Also, the committee is considering a tax increase of one to one and half cents per one hundred dollars of assessed property value.

A cent in Greenwich is worth approximately \$55,000. This means the average resident in a home worth \$300,000-\$400,000 would pay an increase in municipal taxes of about \$60 to support the increase said Emiliani.

The committee has not yet decided how it will fund the down payment on the various capital projects that the township needs but said when the committee considers the expenditures it will seek the least impact to the taxpayer.

Next year, there could be a brighter picture as the township could see more revenue from ticket fees. There has been a dramatic increase in the amount of traffic tickets handed out by state troopers on I-78 in the first quarter of this year. Troopers have already handed out 681 tickets in the first two and a half months of this year, an increase of 269 tickets over the previous quarter said Court Administrator Sue Fleming.

Additional revenue could be realized when the weigh stations open full time in April. Citations are down for the weigh station from 1013 in the final quarter of 2007 to 868 in this quarter said Fleming. When the station opens full time, Emiliani anticipates an even greater ticket load there. The township is also entitled to \$18 from those tickets.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE - AG INITIATIVES

By by Dawn Marie Kondas - Chair

Past two months -

- Aligned the objectives of the Open Space Committee and Agricultural Board to form a joint working relationship
- Renewed our consulting arrangement with Morris Land Conservancy (MLC)
- Closed the Hamlen Farm - 87 acres - under the Farmland Planning Incentive Grant

In Process -

- Working with the Planning Board to finalize the Farmland Preservation Plan which includes the priority list of targeted farms and will enable the Township access to county and state funding
- Currently working on two active properties under the Green Acres program
- Collaborating with MLC in preparing an Open Space Plan and applying for an ANJEC grant to offset 50% of the costs

Upcoming -

- Map walking trails in our passive Green Acres recreation properties
- Install signage to highlight preserved land to the public
- Implement a planning tool to prioritize and budget preservation efforts
- Create an Open Space Property database

CAPITAL PROJECTS

By Joe Schiller - Chair

The Greenwich Township Capital Projects Committee is evaluating the current and future facility needs for municipal administration/ government, the court system, and the police and fire departments. All existing municipally owned buildings and the Old School are being considered. Our Mission Statement is to research and obtain data for making recommendations of appropriations for municipal capital project facilities while minimizing the tax impact on Greenwich residents. Measurable progress has been achieved in cost comparisons for conversion of existing facilities, and new designs employing alternate building modes. Significant cost reductions over previous proposals are evident. We are targeting a firm report of findings to the Township Committee by May or June, 2008

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Barry Glassman

We welcomed two new commissioners this year to the EC, Jeanne Zander and Charlie Stivali. Both bring great energy, fresh ideas and hands-on support to the efforts of the township's environmental commission.

Applying for a grant from the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) to update our township's Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) manual.

It's important for our town to take stock of all of its waterways, open space, forests, native animals, native plants, soil, and geological features, etc. so that our local government officials, supporting professionals and residents can use it as a reference when making important decisions about land use. But the document and data is more than 5 years old and we can use grant money to help pay for the update.



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