

NEW JERSEY NOISE CONTROL COUNCIL (NCC)
SEPTEMBER 13, 2016
MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Arnold Schmidt (Chairman, Public Member), Steve Szulecki (Vice Chairman, Public Member, Ecologist), Randy Hauser (Department of Labor), Salvatore Fama (Motor Vehicle Commission), John Lago (Department of Community Affairs) Dr. Iris Udasin (Public Member, Medical Doctor), Joseph Lepis (Public Member, Civil Engineer), John Kapferer (Public Member), Jerry Feder (Public Member), Joseph DiFillippo (Candidate), Eric Zwerling (Director of the Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center) and David Triggs (Department of Environmental Protection, Noise Control Council Liaison)

PUBLIC: Jack Zybura (Lewis S. Goodfriend and Associates), Mark Roskein (Somerset County Department of Health)

MEETING MINUTES:

The June meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with John Kapferer motioning to accept and Randy Hauser seconding. All were in favor so the motion passed. The passing of the July meeting minutes was tabled.

CHAIR REPORT:

- All of the NCC members with expired terms have submitted updated resumes for consideration of reappointment. They will be resubmitted once it is decided who will fill Carl Accettola's vacancy. Current candidates are Jack Zybura and Mark Roskein. Joseph DiFillippo's name will also be resubmitted for John Surmay's vacancy along with the others.
- Chairman Schmidt handed NCC member Dr. Udasin a newspaper article from the Home News Tribune regarding her ongoing care for emergency response personnel associated with the World Trade Center disaster. Dr. Udasin has been with the federally funded World Trade Center Health Program at Rutgers University since 2003. Since that time the staff has tripled and they have treated over 2,659 patients. Some current members (Joseph Lepis, John Kapferer, Dr. Udasin and DEP Liaison David Triggs) were attending a NCC meeting when the event occurred.
- It was again emphasized that NCC members should avoid responding via e-mails as a quorum to any Council-related business as per the Sunshine Rule and Open Public Meetings Act.

NCC COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to the NCC.

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Emergency Generators:* An updated guidance document created by Salvatore Fama and Joseph Lepis was handed out. There were numerous comments such as adding website references and an introduction that includes a statement emphasizing that, portable generators should never be operated indoors. Some members wanted more time to review the document and e-mail their recommendations.

- *Penalty Assessment Matrix:* The subcommittee met in August to finalize the form. Steve Szulecki was in favor of developing an instructional narrative guidance document as opposed to a step-by-step matrix. He will present his alternative to the subcommittee after the regular September meeting.
- *Roundtable Part 150 Study:* The Technical Advisory Committee distributed noise exposure maps that indicated that approximately 25,000 people are impacted by DNL 65 noise and it is expected to rise to DNL 70 by 2021, which would be significant. Sound proofing homes would not alleviate noise at this level. EWR airport plans to activate Stage 5 aircraft by 2017. Federal Express plans on replacing their entire fleet in five years which should reduce noise. Boeing and Air Bus also plan to replace their fleets with quieter planes but no timetable was given.
- *NCC By-Laws:* Chairman Schmidt handed out copies of the Council Member Conduct Section of the by-laws. After a discussion and some significant changes that shortened the section, he requested a vote to approve. All were in favor except Joseph Lepis and Jerry Feder who both abstained. Pages 11 and 12 were also discussed and another vote was taken to accept the additional changes. All were in favor. Chairman Schmidt will make the necessary revisions and send what should be considered the final version of the by-laws prior to the next meeting. The September motions were to amend the vote taken in July, since additional changes to the by-laws were made since then.
- *Motor Vehicles Entering/Exiting Facilities:* This was tabled in Norm Dotti's absence since he initiated the discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The proposed construction of a gas compressor station in Franklin Township (Somerset County) and bordering South Brunswick Township was discussed. Not only are these types of stations dangerous due to explosions, fires, leaks and spills, there is a potential for noise, especially during "blow-downs" which can last from 20 minutes to a few hours. The proposed site is on the property of Trap Rock Quarry, but there is a condominium complex nearby on the South Brunswick side of Route 27. There has been a significant amount of opposition from residents and both towns. There have been public meetings, one of which Chairman Schmidt attended to express his concerns regarding the potential noise. Since the facility is federally regulated under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the town may be powerless to stop it from being built. It is unknown whether FERC trumps local regulations; however, since it could lower property values, it could trigger what is known as "inverse condemnation" which could usurp the federal regulations.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

There was no public discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The NCC did not go into Executive Session.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11th at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: David Triggs, NJDEP Liaison to the NCC