

A photograph of a winter forest. The ground is covered in a layer of snow. In the foreground, there are several clumps of dry, brown grasses and small shrubs. The middle ground is filled with numerous tall, thin, bare trees, likely oaks, with some showing a few remaining brown leaves. The background shows a clear blue sky. The text "Be Heard!" is overlaid in a large, red, cursive font across the center of the image.

Be Heard!

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

THE GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
CITIZEN ADVOCACY PROGRAM



BE HEARD!

Learn to become an effective advocate for improvement in your community.

The Great Swamp Watershed Association's mission includes educating residents to take action for the environment in their communities. Learn to become a more effective advocate when dealing with government at all levels by attending a **Be Heard!** workshop.

This workshop focuses on development and land use - what you can do to be heard by local officials if, for instance, you have concerns about a subdivision proposal, want to express approval for an open space acquisition, or are alarmed by the prospect of polluted runoff from a new parking lot. The presenters, residents of towns in the watershed, have experience in navigating the maze of local bureaucracies. Watershed Association staff and volunteers will take part in the discussion and answer questions.

The important thing to know is that you must get involved early. Don't wait for a bad decision to be finalized and then complain. Become a part of the process.

What's in the Workshop

Fourteen essential ACTION steps are accompanied by helpful real-life tips you can use.

Definitions are given for terms commonly used in ordinances and by boards and councils.

References are given to publications in the GSWA library (available for browsing during office hours), to web sites with more information, and to material consulted for this booklet.

Be an effective advocate for betterment in your community by learning a few simple procedures for making yourself heard by town officials.

*The Association thanks The Watershed Institute
for its generous funding of this program*

ACTION Outline

The best strategy for "being heard" by local officials depends on the specific details of your issue. However, the citizen advocate usually must consider three progressive stages of action:

Stage One: Gather facts/determine responsible governmental body/try to resolve the issue with a phone call or a visit to a town office. (Action Steps 1 -- 8)

Stage Two: Attend a meeting of the appropriate governmental body and voice your concern, gather allies, write letters, start a website. (Action Steps 9 -- 13)

Stage Three: Hire an attorney. (Action Step 14)

Some issues are resolved in Stage One, while others of a more complex nature require the citizen advocate to take some or all of the Action Steps in Stages Two or Three.

ACTIONS!

ACTION 1 - Be vigilant.

Keep your ear to the ground and an eye on the neighborhood. Watch for signs of activities before they become full-blown issues.

TIP - Read the fine print in local and regional newspapers in the section where the legal notices occur. The font is tiny but this is where subdivision applications and applications for building variances are posted first.

Say you saw a newspaper article or were told by a friend of a proposal by the town that seems questionable. Or you have noticed something that could be made better. Turn the vacant lot into a park instead of a condo. Reduce the amount of salt on the roads in winter. You might have received a certified letter giving notice that a neighbor wants to subdivide their property and change the lot line. What can you do?

ACTION 2 – Start gathering and keeping documentation.

If there is a problem having a direct impact on you now, document what's happening, when, how much you are affected. The notes you make will come in handy when you get to the ACTIONS below. Take pictures and date them - a photo really is worth a gigabyte of words. Read the town ordinances that deal with land use, which includes subdivision and site development. A copy of the ordinance book is on the counter at Town Hall, and is now online in most towns. For example, many towns have a tree removal ordinance which is often not vigorously enforced. All towns have noise and lighting ordinances.

TIP - A digital photo can be e-mailed, which is easier than making paper copies for distribution.

ACTION 3 - Find out more about the situation.

If the problem is an unwise development proposed for next door, look at the plan - go to the municipal building, find the planning department office, and ask to look at the plans, both the development plan and any wetlands application. The wetlands application will include a Letter of Interpretation or LOI from the NJDEP describing the boundaries of wetlands on the property and their resource classification. Have ready the address of the property, owner's name, and block and lot if you can. Town clerks and land use officials are friendly and helpful to a fault, but if she says she doesn't have the plans politely ask her to look again. The plans have to be in the files and you are allowed to see them.

TIP - Towns can charge 75¢ per page to copy documents. Take your digital camera and photo the pages instead.

TIP - Find out what building zone the property is in. A proposal that's OK for a 2-acre lot may not be allowed in a different zone. Make a list of all variances and waivers requested. Are there wetlands on or near the site? Wetlands may not be built upon without special permits from the NJDEP.

Are there threatened or endangered species on or near the site? If so there will be severe restrictions on building on the

property. The developer will probably not voluntarily disclose this information. **BE CAREFUL.** Do not trespass to gather information. Ask that the Environmental Commission or Planning Board have a public site visit.

TIP- Review wetlands delineations. Developers would prefer any wetlands be labeled isolated wetlands rather than contiguous because they are not regulated. However, frequently those wetlands really are contiguous and should be independently reviewed. Call the DEP and ask the status of their wetland review.

ACTION 4 - Find out even more about the situation.

Inspect the tax record book in the tax office to find out owner's name and address, size of property, assessed value, taxes paid, kind of building on the lot. The tax records book and folder of tax maps are usually sitting out on the counter for anyone to look at. And, visit your town's or county's GIS web site and look up the property. You may have to navigate to the Tax Records link. Knowing the block and lot will speed up the search. The GIS web site will give you information about, and a map showing, the property itself and other properties in the vicinity of the problem site.

TIP- You must be informed and educated about the issues to be taken seriously.

TIP - To find a town's web site type the town name followed by NJ into Google.

TIP - Keep track of the status of the situation. The earlier you intervene the better. Minutes of all Council and board meetings are available for inspection at the main desk and are often on the town's web site.

ACTION 5 – Check the zoning and the Master Plan.

The Master Plan is a document with teeth. Zoning regulations must be consistent with the master plan. Once a town has adopted a Master Plan and instituted zoning based on the plan the town has the legal authority to insist that development conform to the Master Plan and zoning rules. When a town

ruling is based on the Master Plan the courts tend to uphold the town if a developer sues. The Master Plan can "require adequate light, air and open space," "promote the establishment of appropriate population densities," "promote a desirable visual environment," "prevent urban sprawl and degradation of the environment through improper use of land." There is also a State Plan which Planning Boards sometimes take into consideration.

TIP- If the development is within the zoning allowed for that area and there are no variances required it will be very difficult to stop it.

TIP - The Master Plan is usually on the counter in the Land Use Office or is readily available. It is often also on the town website. It includes text and maps. The Environmental Commission's Environmental Resources Inventory (sometimes called a Natural Resources Inventory or NRI) is an official part of the Master Plan and deals with steep slopes and wetlands. The NRI is also readily available in the Land Use Office.

TIP - The Board of Health has information about wells and septic systems.

ACTION 6 - Decide who is responsible for the situation.

Is it the school board, the municipal government, the Planning Board (responsible for development applications), the Board of Adjustment (responsible for zoning decisions), the DPW, the police (do not call 911!)? Call the head of the responsible department. Call Town Hall if you see a violation of an ordinance - large trees being removed or heavy construction equipment being used adjacent to trees (the roots get injured), mud washing into the street, inappropriate trash or noise (read the ordinances!) People call all the time. Town officials are used to it. In many cases one phone call will resolve the situation.

TIP - If you see wetlands being disturbed or people dumping trash into storm drains call town hall. They will call the NJ DEP if necessary.

ACTION 7 - Talk directly to the owner.

Once in awhile talking directly with the owner or developer, town official or other responsible person can produce results. Ask if that big tree could be saved by relocating a deck or driveway.

TIP - Don't just complain. Suggest at least the first step towards an acceptable alternative. To identify a problem is to complain - to identify a problem and offer a solution is to lead.

ACTION 8 - Research the facts.

Find out what other towns have done, with numbers. How many residents have private drinking water wells, how many tons of road salt did other towns use and on how many miles of roads. Keep phone calls to town staff as brief as possible. For instance, to learn how much salt the Department of Public Works uses, call the head of the DPW and ask. Put the number he tells you into a context. Use the Web to find out how much other towns use and under what circumstances, what alternatives exist and what everything costs.

TIP - Keep that phone call to the DPW brief and stick to the subject. Don't begin also discussing leaf pickup if your main question was about road salt.

TIP - The public library often has copies of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and federal Environmental Protection Agency proposals. Superfund site remediation documents for your town can



Library of the Chathams

frequently be found in the library, which is often designated the official repository for documents which must be made available to the public.

TIP - If all of the research reveals that the property

owner's proposed plan does not require any variances from town zoning and ordinances and there are no wetlands issues requiring permits from the NJDEP then it is almost useless to challenge. You have got to find a "hook", a legal point to challenge, whether it be zoning, wetlands, or funding if it is a public project.

ACTION 9 - Attend Meetings.

In many cases one phone call will not resolve the situation. Here's where you get to attend meetings and write letters.

Attend the School Board, Town Council, Planning Board or Board of Adjustment meetings when the situation is being discussed. The dates of the meetings of these boards are posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building, and occasionally the dates and agendas will be on the town web site (usually not up to date.) Call Town Hall ahead of time to find out if the issue is on the agenda. If it's a property issue, make sure there is a site visit of the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment - that is a public meeting so anyone can go. Make sure you go. Ordinarily at Planning Board and Board of Adjustment meetings you will only be allowed to ask questions of the expert witness who is testifying, but at some point in the proceedings there will be an opportunity to make a statement or present your own expert witness.

TIP - You must attend the town council or board meeting when your concern is being discussed. These meetings can be long and boring but your presence alone, even if you don't say anything, makes a powerful statement.

TIP - If you do speak, DO NOT go over your allotted 3 minutes.

Be brief and try not to be redundant. Organize your thoughts ahead of time, and it's a good idea to have written notes to refer to while speaking.

TIP- Try to ask questions. "Have you considered..." or "Do you think..." or "Could you..."? If you wait until the end of the application to make comments instead of questions, the decision may be as good as made.

TIP- Some towns require you to register to speak at the beginning of the meeting. Make sure you find out the appropriate protocol to speak.

TIP- Distinguish your position from those known as NIMBYs (Not in my back yard). Be clear, be concise, and explain your position rationally and logically. Try not to be emotional. "I've lived next door my whole life and I think it should remain undeveloped because it's so pretty" will get you nowhere and any credible arguments you might have will be diluted.

TIP - Hand out copies of your notes (2 pages max, 1 is better) and photos BEFORE you start speaking. The board members will actually look at your printed material if it is in front of them while you talk. Bring extra copies to give to members of the public and reporters.

TIP - Questions to ask: have all storm water calculations, wetlands and flood delineations been independently checked? Has an LOI been obtained? Are all trees to be removed accurately shown on the plan? Are there vernal pools on the site? NJDEP-registered vernal pools have special protections.

TIP - You MUST be polite. Please and thank you work as well here as everywhere else.

ACTION 10 - Find allies.

Find out who else is interested in or lives next door to the situation. Do people in this group have any ideas for dealing with the problem?

TIP - The first page of the site plan will list all properties within 200 feet of the property in question.

TIP - The Web will give you information about nearby properties including a list of all those within 200 feet of the property in question.

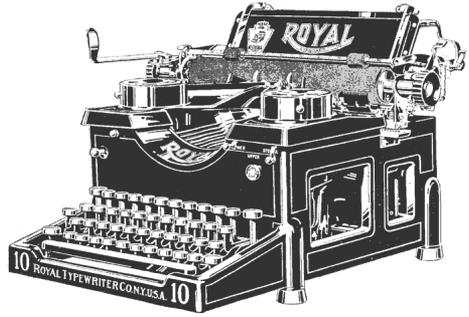
TIP- The board will pay more attention to your concerns when those concerns are shared by others.

TIP- Hold a meeting with potential allies. Listen to other people's ideas. Be organized.

ACTION 11 - Write letters.

Write letters to the newspapers and to the appropriate officials such as mayor, head of school board and so on. Keep your letter to one page. That way you will be forced to be brief and to include only the most important elements of your case. Be sure to include a sentence making clear what action you would like the recipient of the letter to take.

TIP - Cc everyone you can think of. Don't leave out the Board of Health, NJDEP, your state and federal congressional representatives and senators, local or state advocacy or environmental groups.



TIP - Newspapers prefer letters to be no more than 150 words but the absolute limit is 250 words.

ACTION 12 - Contact agencies.

Contact GSWA, the town's Environmental Commission, NJDEP and even the New Jersey chapter of the Sierra Club. Don't forget land trusts like the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Also consider talking to the NJ Audubon Society, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the Friends of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Historic preservation groups are frequently good resources.

TIP - Contact your state and federal legislators. If the issue is regional or involves state or federal jurisdiction they will lend a sympathetic ear.

TIP - Let your representative or municipal official know you are a constituent, i.e. a potential vote.

ACTION 13 - Start a website.

Start a web site, create an elevator speech (a 15 second de-

scription of your situation). Use the elevator speech and a ten-word slogan at the beginning of all press releases and letters to the editor.

TIP - Fifteen seconds is really short. Time your elevator speech.

ACTION 14 - Hire a lawyer.

Hire a lawyer (land use attorney for property issues), preferably jointly with neighbors or others interested in the situation. Lay out all of your findings and ask for a determination as to whether or not you have an issue with traction. You might even want to hire an expert witness such as a certified biologist or certified planner (ANJEC has a useful list of professionals). A neighborhood or other group which has hired a lawyer, whose members show up at town board and council meetings and write letters to the newspapers and government, and doesn't give up has a better probability of success.

TIP - Be sure you know what you mean by "success." What are you willing to settle for?

TIP- Success does not have to mean prevention and change is not always bad.

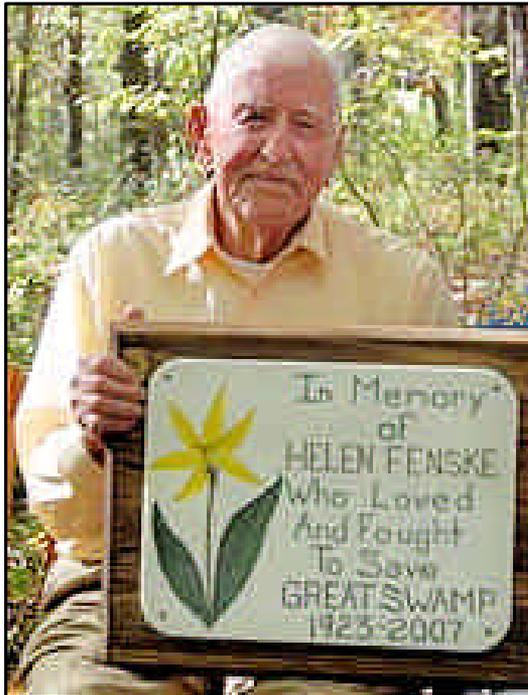
TIP - If working with a group get "hard" pledges from the members for financial contributions and time commitments. Pursuing the problem to this extent will require a lot of time and money. Front page newspaper ads are not cheap. Neither are lawyers and expert witnesses. A well orchestrated demonstration could cost quite a lot for signs and flyers.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever does."

-- Margaret Mead

CONCLUSION - Citizens have rights, actions such as participating in government that we can legally take without having to ask permission or get a permit. The public has a right to **be heard!**

TIP - Be very careful - people who become involved often wind up on the Planning Board or town council!



Art Fenske, Helen's husband

Helen Fenske was an extraordinary activist who insisted on being heard. Because she was knowledgeable and persistent, she and a dedicated band of local environmentalists succeeded in saving the Great Swamp from becoming a Port Authority jetport.

DEFINITIONS

Here are some definitions, many taken from The Citizens' Manual, Wikipedia, and publications of ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) of terms commonly used in ordinances, plans, and environmental and land use documents.

By Right - An entitlement to something without having to ask permission or obtain a permit, such as to justice and due process, or to the ability to own property.



COAH - The Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) was created by the Fair

Housing Act of 1985 as the State Legislature's response to a series of New Jersey Supreme Court cases known as the Mount Laurel decisions. The Supreme Court established a constitutional obligation for each of the 566 municipalities in the state to establish a realistic opportunity for the provision of fair share low and moderate income housing obligations. COAH provides municipalities that choose to enter its process and obtain substantive certification of their fair share plans with an administrative shield from developer's lawsuits. Often such lawsuits result in the imposition of "builder's remedies" (four market units for each low and moderate income unit). New ratios are 1 affordable unit among 5 units and 1 affordable unit for every 16 jobs (previously ratios were 1 among 9 units and 1 for every 25 jobs).

Government Records Council - The Government Records Council (GRC) was created by the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) to facilitate the provision of public records as mandated by OPRA. The GRC is mainly responsible for educating the public about OPRA and fulfilling inquiries made by the public or records custodians, in addition to aiding in the research of and mediating disputes about access to government

records. For more information about the GRC, visit their website at <http://www.nj.gov/grc/> or call their toll-free hotline at 1-866-850-0511.

LOI - "Letter of Interpretation", the document a landowner must obtain from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) which determines the extent of wetlands on the property and their resource value: exceptional if they are habitat for threatened or endangered species - 150 foot buffer required, ordinary if they are a ditch or swale or isolated - no buffer required, intermediate if they are not exceptional or ordinary - 50 foot buffer required.

Master Plan - The Master Plan is a document that describes a municipality's overall physical development. Consisting of both narrative and maps, the Master Plan determines the physical landscape of a city or town, as well as its future growth. Housing, school and government facilities, retail and business, parks and recreation, and roads and transportation infrastructure are all included in the Master Plan.

By law, the planning board is required to revise or readopt the Master Plan at least every six years, but has the authority to alter the plan more frequently.

Nonpoint Source Pollution - Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants include: Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas; oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production; sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding streambanks; salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines; bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems. Atmospheric deposition and hydromodification are also sources of nonpoint source pollution.

Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA (New Jersey Statutory

Authority) 10:4-6 to 10:4-2) - The Open Public Meeting Act is a law that requires that all meetings of municipal governing bodies be open and accessible to the public. A meeting generally includes any situation in which a majority of the council or other governing body (including certain kinds of committees) meets and discusses the business of that body. In order to be valid, ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, orders, and directives must be adopted at public meetings. The Act contains specific provisions regarding: regular and special meetings, executive sessions, types of notice which must be given, where meetings may be held, conduct of meetings, minutes, and penalties and remedies for violation of the statutes.

Open Public Records Act (OPRA; NJSA 47:1A-1 et seq.) - As a complement to the Open Public Meetings Act, the Open Public Records Act of 2001 provides access to non-confidential or litigious government records for public viewing or request. Records that are available to the public include the agenda and minutes of township meetings, town and school budgets, development maps and proposal documents, and many other documents of concern to the community. The Government Records Council settles any disputes arising from potential breaches of OPRA provisions.

Ordinance - A statute, regulation, or law, especially one enacted by a city government.

Planning Board - The local planning board controls the physical development and growth of the city. Many "quality of life" issues - questions that concern how residents are affected by changes in the physical and environmental development of their community - are dealt with by the planning board. One of the planning board's main responsibilities is the adoption and revision of the city's Master Plan. Planning board members are appointed by the Mayor and Council, although the Mayor or his designee and one Council representative are often required to sit on the planning board. The planning board reviews applications for development to make sure they conform to the Master Plan. Members are volunteers and are appointed by the town council.

Recharge - Groundwater recharge is the process in which

water moves downward from surface water to groundwater (water deep underground.) Groundwater is recharged naturally by rain and snow melt and to a smaller extent by surface water (brooks, rivers and lakes). Recharge may be impeded somewhat by human activities including paving, development, or logging. These activities can result in enhanced surface runoff and reduction in recharge. Use of groundwater from wells, especially for irrigation, may also lower the water tables. Groundwater recharge is an important process for sustainable groundwater and well management, since the amount withdrawn from an aquifer should be less than or equal to the amount that is recharged.

Recharge can help move excess salts that accumulate in the root zone to deeper soil layers, or into the ground water system. Another environmental issue is the disposal of waste into groundwater from dairy farms, and industrial and urban runoff.

Riparian Buffer - A riparian buffer is a strip of land left undisturbed along a stream bank. Riparian buffers are important for good water quality. Riparian zones help to prevent sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides and other pollutants from reaching a stream. Riparian buffers are most effective at improving water quality when they include native grass and wildflowers along with deep rooted trees and shrubs along the stream.

Riparian vegetation slows floodwaters, thereby helping to maintain stable streambanks and protect downstream property. By slowing down floodwaters and rainwater runoff, the riparian vegetation allows water to soak into the ground and recharge groundwater.

School Board - The School Board oversees public primary and secondary (K - 12) education for the local school district. All school related policy issues, including curriculum and instruction, the hiring and appointment of faculty and administration, fiscal and facility management, and extra and co-curricular programs are determined by the school board. School board members are elected.

Site Plan - A site plan is a plan for an individual lot. Subdivision is the division of a piece of land into a number of

lots. The site plan will show changes to the lot including new buildings, driveways, utilities, grading and landscaping, while a subdivision plan will show new streets, utilities, and lot lines, but not buildings.

Steep slope ordinance - A steep slope ordinance regulates development on areas of steep slopes. The definition of steep varies from municipality to municipality, with slopes over 15% gradient usually considered steep.

Stormwater - Rain water. Stormwater is of concern for two main issues: one is the volume and timing of runoff water (flood and erosion control and reservoir and groundwater replenishment) and the other is potential contaminants that the water may be carrying (oil and gasoline, salt).



**Uncontrolled stormwater in
Penns Brook in Bernardsville**

Variance - Where in an application or appeal the purposes of the law in question would be advanced by a deviation from the requirements of law's provisions, and the benefits of the deviation would substantially outweigh any detriment, to grant a variance is to allow departure from such regulations.

Vernal Pool - Vernal pools are temporary pools of water created by snow melt and spring rains. Vernal pools are good places for many species of salamander, some of which breed nowhere else. Because vernal pools go dry in the summer, they don't support fish that would devour young salamanders. Most pools don't support big, predatory bullfrogs, either. Bullfrogs need a pool to be continuously filled for three years before they can metamorphose into adulthood.

Waiver - Permission to refrain from having to comply with a

regulation.

Wastewater management plan (WMP) - The NJ DEP requires every town to have a WMP, which must project the sanitary sewer/septic needs for the town's planning areas for the next 20 years. The plan must be based on municipal zoning and projected population growth to ensure the town will be able to provide adequate wastewater service.

Wastewater Management Plans are a guide to the future, identifying areas for more intense development that require public sewers. Ideally, the future areas to be served by sewers should be located in the existing or planned center of town, and not in the countryside or environs.

Wetlands - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines wetlands as "lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface." They are primary habitat for hundreds of species of waterfowl as well as many other birds, fish, mammals and insects.

Wetlands naturally filter and recharge the water that later comes out of our faucets downstream. They act like giant sponges, slowing the flow of surface water and reducing the impact of flooding.

Wetlands also prevent soil erosion, and they buffer water bodies from potentially damaging land use activities such as agriculture. And wetlands can remove and store greenhouse gases from the Earth's atmosphere, slowing the onset of global warming.

Zoning Board (or Board of Adjustment) - Each municipality determines its land use via zoning, i.e. designating certain areas for specific uses like housing, retail, hotels, etc. This information is contained within the town or city Master Plan. New developments must be in accordance with the zoning regulations of a specific area. Most often the planning board determines whether proposed developments meet zoning regulations. If, however, a proposed development requires a variance, meaning the proposed land use is not ordinarily allowed and an exception would have to be made, the

application may be considered by the zoning board, which determines whether the application will be approved. Members are volunteers and are appointed by the town council.

RULES FOR MEETINGS

The township committee or town council and the planning board and zoning board of adjustment have standard rules for conducting meetings.

Town council meetings - Members of the public may speak, usually for no more than 3 minutes, on any agenda item. An opportunity to speak for no more than 3 minutes on any non-agenda item is also provided, at the beginning of the meeting if councils are user-friendly, otherwise at the very end.

Planning board and board of adjustment meetings - They are conducted somewhat like a trial. The applicant provides witnesses to testify why the application should be approved; members of the public may ask questions of each witness after the witness's testimony. Members of the public may present their own witnesses for or against the application. Members of the public may not make general comments until after all witnesses have testified and the board is deliberating.

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and

<http://www.jointhecampaign.com/images/stories/Citizens%20Manual%20Page%20Per%20Sheet.pdf>

- Website Creation and Hosting

www.godaddy.com

- Electronic Petitions

www.ipetitions.com

- Help with Mailings

<http://www.click2mail.com/>

- New Jersey Press Association

<http://www.njpa.org/>

Maps

- Tax Maps

<http://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/TaxBoard/SearchTR.jsp>

- NJ Department of Environmental Protection i-MapNJ Mapping Tool

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/depsplash.htm>

Laws

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- Municipal Land Use Law

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- New Jersey Statutes Annotated (N.J.S.A)

http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=26472303&depth=2&expandheading=s=off&headingswithhits=on&infobase=statutes.nfo&softpage=TOC_Frame_Pg42

- Mid-Atlantic Environmental Law Center

<http://http://www.maelc.org/>

- Rutgers University School of Law Environmental Law Clinic

<http://www.law.newark.rutgers.edu/clinics/environmental-law-clinic>

Environmental

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<http://www.thewatershed.org/>

- NJ Department of Environmental Protection

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/>

- Wetlands Information

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/fww.html>

- NJ Green Acres

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/>

- Association of NJ Environmental Commissions- ANJEC

<http://www.anjec.org/>

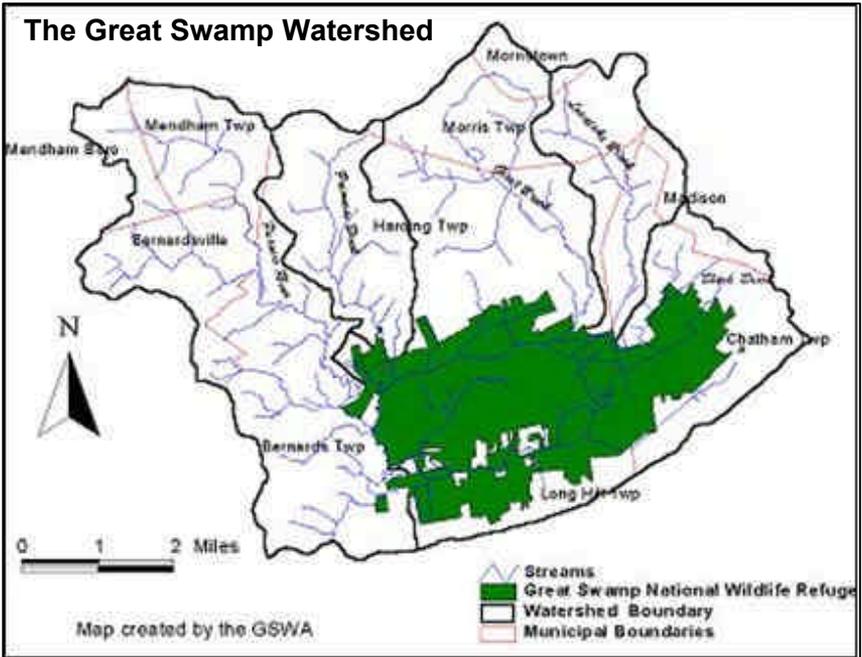
- Delaware Riverkeeper

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/>

- US Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov>

The Great Swamp Watershed

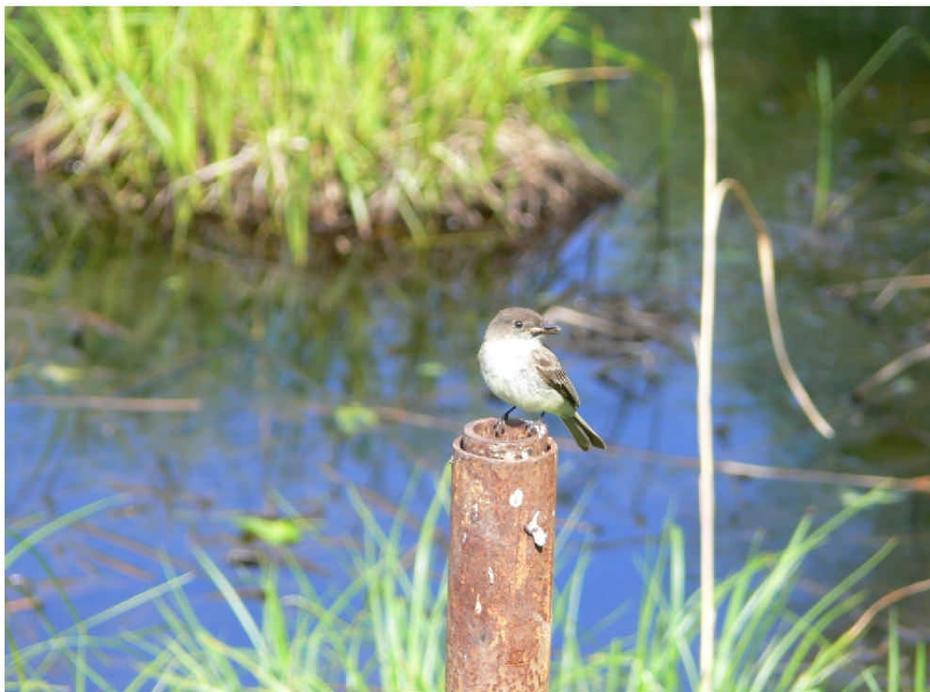


The Great Swamp Watershed Association, mail to P.O. Box 300, New Vernon, NJ 07976, visit at 568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. Phone: 973 538-3500.

Founded in 1981, the Great Swamp Watershed Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the water and land of the ten towns in the 36,000-acre watershed region in Morris and Somerset counties. The organization works to maintain healthy open space and to monitor and protect all the watershed streams - Loantaka Brook, Great Brook, Primrose Brook, Black Brook, and the Upper Passaic. These streams are tributaries of the Passaic River which provides drinking water to more than a million people.

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<http://www.greatswamp.org/>