

SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER OF
MONMOUTH COUNTY FRIENDS OF CLEARWATER
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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO "FAST TRACK".

"This bill has the potential to be the worst environmental bill in the history of New Jersey," Assemblyman Bill Baroni, R-Hamilton

Last June, after years of effort, New Jersey environmentalists were ready to celebrate passage of a historic bill which will guard from development over 1000 acres in the north Jersey highlands. The celebration, however, died a premature death when the price for obtaining passage of the highlands bill became clear. To round up the necessary votes from reluctant south Jersey legislators politicians in Trenton made a "pact with the devil" and agreed to legislation nicknamed "Fast Track". This law provides for expedited approval of permits for all types of development in 43% of New Jersey's developable land.

The concept of limiting development in environmentally sensitive portions of the state while streamlining the permit process in areas where growth is acceptable may be sound, but the bill recently signed into law does far more than streamlining. "Fast Track doesn't level the playing field, it demolishes it." said bay keeper Andy Wilner, echoing the opinion of virtually all environmentalists. This law will reduce local control, throttle citizen input, and accelerate sprawl in neighborhoods which are home to 85% on New Jersey's population (including virtually all of the Monmouth County shore area). Growth in these neighborhoods may be appropriate, but it must be the right kind of growth. This will; not be achieved by rushing through permits with little review and even less citizen input.

The Fast Track bill was drawn up in secret and rammed through the legislature in only three days with no floor debate at all. Many legislators scarcely had time to read this complex bill much less fully appreciate its potential. While the impact of this bill, which takes affect in November, depends in part on the rules of implementation

currently being drawn, it is clear that the affect on the environment will be somewhere between "awful" and "disastrous".

This law lives up to its name by fast tracking permits for developers. It essentially gives the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Community Affairs just 45 days to approve or disapprove a permit with approval given by default if the agencies fail to meet the dead line. That time frame might seem adequate for routine permits and given adequate state staffing. But state agencies rarely have the personnel they need and many permits, such as those for development in contaminated industrial sites, can be extremely complex.

In another sell out to developers, the law specifies that the governor must appoint a special ombudsman to facilitate and expedite permits. This individual, who has been dubbed the "sprawl czar" has the authority to veto any rules or regulations which might impede the granting of building permits.

Another onerous provision of the law specifies that the state will qualify private consulting firms to be authorized to grant permits.

Instead of an objective third party, paid with tax dollars, determining whether a permit is granted, a builder would have the option of hiring a certified consultant of his choice to review and approve the permit application. This is equivalent to allowing school kids to write their own final exam!

And if you believe that a permit will adversely affect you and you have legitimate grounds for challenging the award, it will be just too bad!

The law specifically prohibits recourse to the normal court system. So much for your right to your "day in court".

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

has raised concerns, saying that tight fast-track deadlines could rob the public of its right to comment on controversial projects and that approval of permits by default is not permitted under overriding federal law. The so-called fast track law could undercut federal standards for coastal protection, jeopardizing nearly \$3 million in annual funding which New Jersey receives from Washington, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in an Aug. 18 letter. If the State of New Jersey persists in pushing elements of Fast Track which conflict with federal law, it is possible that federal agencies may take back responsibility for issuing permits. This would result in even less local control and cause more delay in the resolution of permit applications.

The Fast Track bill was rushed through and signed into law almost literally out of sight of the general public. Now it is up to us to shine a light on this malevolent law. We urge you to call, write, and e-mail the governor, your state assemblypersons and your state senators and tell them that the Fast Track law is not acceptable. It must be rewritten to achieve its objectives without jeopardizing the environment and trampling on citizens rights to have a voice in the development of their neighborhood.

**It's that time of year:
The Monmouth County
Friends of Clearwater
board is looking for
members who would like
to become more involved
with the day to day
business of MCFC.**

**If you know someone or
would like to run for a
position on the Board of
Directors, call and leave a
message on the Hotline.**

It is the aim of Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater, that each member in his or her own way touch the people in our community and by word or deed convey the importance of conservation and reparation of the earth. ~

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE !!

All members received a mailing in July announcing the NEW Annual Dues schedule. September is/was the new anniversary month for ALL members.

Thus it is time to get your membership dues in for the next year. If you joined at the Festival your membership is good for the next year.

Follow the chart to the right to figure out your membership dues amount. Find the month you have normally paid your membership (the month is also part of your mailing label on this newsletter).

September is full price then your dues amount reduces depending on the month you originally paid your last dues.

	Individual	Family	LI/SC/S
August	n/c	n/c	n/c
Sept	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$10.00
Oct	\$22.90	\$32.08	\$9.16
Nov	\$20.80	\$29.16	\$8.32
Dec	\$18.70	\$26.24	\$7.48
Jan	\$16.60	\$23.32	\$6.64
Feb	\$14.50	\$20.40	\$5.80
Mar	\$12.40	\$17.48	\$4.96
Apr	\$10.30	\$14.56	\$4.12
May	\$8.20	\$11.64	\$3.28
Jun	\$6.10	\$8.72	\$2.44
Jul	\$4.00	\$5.80	\$1.60

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Prosperity will mean little if we leave to future generations a world of polluted air, toxic lakes, and vanished forests."

George W. Bush, spoken at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania in April, 2000.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

UUCM MEETING HOUSE ~ 1475 West Front St, Lincroft

Sundays - October 3, 2004 and November 7, 2003

2:00 p.m.

Bring a covered dish for our potluck before & after the meeting.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING:

Directions to Unitarian Church, 1475 West Front Street, Lincroft, N.J.:

From center of Red Bank - Take West Front Street west 4.9 miles to Unitarian Church on your left.

From GS Parkway north or south - Parkway to exit 109. Follow signs for Lincroft or Route 520 west, Continue 1.3 miles to the center of the village of Lincroft then turn right on Middletown-Lincroft Rd.

Proceed 1.4 miles then left at the light at West Front Street. The Unitarian Church is 0.6 miles on your left.

For information call (732) 872-9644.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

S E P T E M B E R

Board Mtg. Wed 29th 7:30 pm. UUCM Meeting House, Lincroft

O C T O B E R

Membership Mtg. Sun 3rd 2:00 pm UUCM Meeting House, Lincroft

Environmental Committee Mtg Sun. Oct 17, 8:30 AM Walcott Park, Eatontown

If inclement, Cobblestone Rest.

Board Mtg. Wed 27th 7:30 pm. UUCM Meeting House, Lincroft

N O V E M B E R

Elections - Membership Mtg Sun 7th 2:00 pm UUCM Meeting House, Lincroft

BUSH ADMINISTRATION CITES "NATIONAL SECURITY" AS REASON TO SKIRT ENVIRO RULES

The Bush administration has proposed yet another list of environmental sacrifices that it believes America should make for the War on Terror.

Last year, President Bush pushed through legislation that exempts military training bases from cornerstone environmental protections mandated by the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, in the name of "military readiness." Despite howls of protest from the environmental community and government officials alike – the unprecedented, sweeping wartime request was unaccompanied by any evidence that America's military strength is at odds with environmental protection - the Department of Defense insisted on the rollbacks and got much of what it asked for.

Now the Bush administration may be weeks from implementing more environmental exemptions for the sake of "national security". The Department of Homeland Security has proposed a directive that would enable a raft of agencies under its domain - including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Coast Guard, Border Patrol, and more than a dozen others - to eschew environmental reviews and assessments of their operations, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, if agency officials feel such reviews are impinging on their efficacy. The directive, which does not require congressional approval, would also allow the agencies to conceal information they consider sensitive from a national-security standpoint.

A coalition of environmental groups have argued that such blanket exception from environmental law is totally without justification. Is the Federal Emergency Management Agency really hampered by having to properly dispose of its trash? Does the Border Patrol really need to be able to secretly blaze roads through national forests for the sake of our security? Will we be safer if the feds log more trees or spray more pesticides?

Is any of this really going to prevent terrorist attacks on America?

The preceding is derived from an article by Amanda Griscom in Grist Magazine

NOV. - DEC. ARTICLE DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

URBAN WIND POWER

CAN WE MAKE IT HAPPEN?

Today, most wind generation occurs at wind farms in remote rural areas or offshore. The wind farms require the construction of large towers to place the turbines above the wind-quenching drag of the earth's surface.

In addition, the power generated must usually be transmitted significant distances to the user.

It is tempting to think that tall buildings in cities might help resolve both of these problems. The tower, or at least part of it, is already there in the form of the building, and the user of the power is immediately below the generator.

But urban wind generation faces serious problems including generally less than optimum winds, noise, and esthetics. In addition there is a potentially severe safety factor should a turbine lose a blade on a roof top above city streets.

Enthusiasts for urban wind power believe these problems can be overcome. "We think wind power fits better into a man-made environment than a pristine one," says Sinisa Stankovic, a renewable energy expert. With limited space for rural wind farms, Europe has taken the lead in research into urban wind power and in designing the building and the wind turbine as an overall unit. A pilot project in Scotland is exploring ways to make small turbines more practical. The design added openings just below the roofline to channel air up through ducts, across turbine blades and out onto the roof. Ducts offer several advantages. By channelling the wind, they reduce air turbulence before the air meets the rotor. They also allow the turbines to be hidden away, and prevent broken blades from escaping and doing damage.

The United States is poised to perhaps take a major step in urban wind power as part of the planned redevelopment of Ground Zero in lower Manhattan. The site's signature structure, the Freedom Tower, is set to host the world's tallest wind farm. If built as planned, the tower would be the world's most visible symbol of renewable energy, with as many as 30 spinning wind turbines in its upper storeys, providing a fifth of the building's power. "The Ground Zero turbines will be high-profile, and that might spur a lot more interest in wind.

MINI LOOK-BACK AT THE FESTIVAL



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Freehold, NJ
Permit No. 30

DATED MATERIAL

Monmouth County Friends of
CLEARWATER, Inc.
P.O. Box 303 • Red Bank NJ, 07701

We include a membership application to our "mother" organization: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater (on the right). We welcome readers of "Solutions" to not only join Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater (below) - but to also sign-up to be a member of Hudson River Sloop

Yes, I want to help Clearwater in its efforts to reclaim and protect the Hudson River.

I am joining Clearwater I am renewing

<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> MARINER	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> SAILING MASTER	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTOR	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT/LIMITED INCOME	\$15

I am enclosing a check or money order payable to Clearwater.

Please charge my Visa, MC, Discover, or Amex.

Please charge my credit card at \$_____ for 12 months for a total of \$_____.

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Signature _____

All membership contributions re tax-deductible with the exception of \$3.00 for a year's subscription to the Clearwater Navigator.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Send me more information about:

- Volunteering Revival 2000
- Member Sails Education Programs
- Advocacy Sloop Clubs

**Send the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Application (ABOVE) to:
HRSC, 112 Little Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please accept my membership application, so that I can help Clearwater in its efforts to clean up our environment and spread the important message of environmental health and protection.

- Individual \$25 Family \$35 Low Income/Senior Citizen/Student \$10
- Lifetime-Family \$400 Sponsor \$100
- Lifetime-Individual \$250 Contributing \$50
- I am not yet a member, but would like to contribute to this worthy cause.

My tax-deductible donation is \$

Please tell us your areas of interest/expertise and why you are joining:

..... your e-mail address

Name Phone Date

Address City State Zip

Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater

Check items you would like to get involved with:

- Environment Grant writing
- Boats Publicity
- Field Trips Membership
- Festival Newsletter
- Finance other _____
- Computers
- Fund-raisers

