

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

January 6, 2020

The January 6, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Township Court Room with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Dalton, David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Thomas Tamayne, Don Weise.

Absent: Chairman Stephen Sangle, Clinton Smith (Alt#1), Douglas Trainor (Alt #2).

Commissioner Thomas Tamayne was designated as Acting Chairman in the absence of Chairman Stephen Sangle. Mr. Tamayne advised that there was a quorum to hold this meeting.

The Commission held a moment of silence for former Commissioner Douglas Ott. The Commissioners discussed several options with regard to a donation of maps and/or books to the West Milford Library in memory of Mr. Ott, including books on local hiking and environmental issues. Don Weise commented that he would research to determine which maps the library has in their possession. The Commissioners suggested that the WM Library might be able to create a section on hiking books and maps as a Douglas Ott Memorial Collection with initial donations from the Commission.

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS

Gary & Angela Bergh

Bulk Variance #ZB-10-19-18

Block 4301; Lot 36

35 Forest Lake Drive; LR Zone

Seeking: Bulk Variance approval for a 7' x 30' addition and a 5' x 40' covered porch, with bulk variance required for lot coverage, where 10% is required, 10% exists, and 14% is proposed.

Subsequent to their review of the above referenced application, the Commission made the following comments:

The Commission recommended that the applicant consider installing rain barrels or a water collection system to address the additional stormwater runoff that will result from the increased impervious surface.

Jane Litwinka

Bulk Variance #ZB-11-19-20

Block 10808; Lot 10

14 Seymour Drive; LR Zone

Seeking: Bulk Variance approval for a 3 season room on an existing 10' x 15' deck, with a bulk variance requested for a rear yard setback, where 60 ft is required, 27 feet exists, and 27 ft is proposed.

Subsequent to their review of the above referenced application, the Commission made the following comments:

The Commission recommended that the applicant consider installing rain barrels or a water collection system to address the additional stormwater runoff that will result from the increased impervious surface with the proposed 3-season room.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Shade Tree Committee / Community Forestry Mgt. Plan / NNL Forestry Grant Project: Commissioner Tim Dalton reported that he has not been contacted by Administration or the DPW regarding the Annual Accreditation Report for the Shade Tree Federation as an element of the Township's Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP). He advised that we (he) completed the required CEU's to be included in the report, but needed to coordinate other information with the Township.

With regard to the NNL Reforestation Grant, Mr. Dalton suggested that perhaps the Township can send correspondence to Fullerton regarding the trees that did not survive so they can be replanted to reach the 95% survival rate required by the NJDEP. He will attempt to contact the C.F.O. and suggest that the Township do the tree planting by hiring someone else if Fullerton does not respond. He noted that they should be given another chance to complete the project with the replanting of the dead trees and they can collect the remaining funds from the grant.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Clint Smith was absent and a report was unavailable for this meeting.

Open Space Committee: Commissioner Don Weise reported that Chairman Sangle advised that he had no response, to date, from the Administration or Governing Body with regard to contracting with The Land Conservancy to update our Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Commission will plan to address the matter with the new Council in 2020.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Commissioner Tom Tamayne reviewed the environmental contamination issues that he received and those that were listed on the agenda.

Belchers Creek Testing Project/ANJEC 2019 OSS Grant Project: Tim Dalton advised that he was in contact with an Environmental Science PH.D student, Sana Mirza, and he has requested that she attend the next Commission meeting to provide some information on data collection. He noted that she was involved in a Water Quality Data Exchange with the NJDEP.

Jim Rogers reported that the boat purchased under the ANJEC Grant for the Belchers Creek testing is docked, with the motor and battery stored for the winter. The Commission acknowledged that the testing will be suspended for the winter months unless we have a mild stretch of weather.

West Milford Lakes Committee: Jim Rogers introduced Lynn Mandon from the West Milford Lakes Committee, and she provided some insight into the Watershed Based Assessment and Management Plan that the Highlands Council will be funding. Ms. Mandon noted that the Lakes Committee is comprised of approximately 10 lakes, and these lakes had compiled their data for the assessment plan. She further advised the Commission that the assessment planning grant was brought to their attention and recommended by Kerry Greene of the NJ Highlands Council, adding that Ringwood has become involved in this process for the lakes in their community. Ms. Mandon reported that Princeton Hydro, who will be involved with the planning grant, will be meeting with the Lakes Committee stakeholders on Jan. 20, 2020 at the WM Library for the initial meeting.

The Commission discussed the Watershed Management Plan and how advantageous it will be for obtaining grants. Ms. Mandon noted that none of the lakes involved in this planning project will have to invest funds, only data. Once all the data has been collected, the result will be a plan for the entire watershed in the Township. Acting Chair Tom Tamayne inquired if other lakes that are not on the Lakes Committee will be included, and Ms. Mandon replied that they will be included.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee: Tim Dalton commented that he will attempt to contact the Director of Education, Dan Novack, to inquire about the process for getting students involved in the testing of Belchers Creek through the electronic back pack system that the schools are using.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Watershed Based Assessment & Management Plan – See above under Lakes Committee.

Algae Control Options – This matter will be discussed at next month’s meeting.

New Recycling Regulations – The Commission briefly discussed the new recycling regulations and commented that there were numerous factors involved in the decision to limit recycling items.

MINUTES

The minutes from the November and December 2019 regular meetings of the W.M. Environmental Commission were **approved** on a **motion** by Jim Rogers with a **second** by David Ofshinsky.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

The Commission reviewed the following correspondence items:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence – None.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Notification to 235 Municipalities serviced by JCP&L, dated December 2019, advising of vegetative maintenance, utility infrastructure maintenance, and repair and replacement activities requiring a FW General Permit #1, Coastal GP #19, Coastal Westland Permit, Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit and Water Quality Certificate.
2. HEPSCD certification of a Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Plan, dated November 25, 2019, received for the Upper Greenwood Lake POA, Block 2901; Lot 1, regarding lake dredging at the Boat Launch Cove, Bridge Cove and Witte Cove.
3. HEPSCD certification of a Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Plan, dated November 15, 2019, received for Oberer Single Family Septic Installation, 342 Germantown Rd, Block 14201; Lot 14.
4. HEPSCD certification of a Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Revised Plan, dated November 25, 2019, received for Cutugno Soil Movement, 64 Vreeland Road, Block 8802; Lot 49.
5. Correspondence from the NJDEP, dated December 23, 2019, regarding the Dam Safety Report for Nosenzo Pond Dam, NJ Dam File #22-241, advising that the dam was found to be in satisfactory condition based on the report of the Township Engineer. Recommended general maintenance and minor repair work can proceed without further approval.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. Notification from Orange and Rockland Electric, dated December 2019, advising that Nelson Tree Service will be conducting tree trimming in various locations in the Township as part of the vegetative maintenance program.
2. Notification from the GWLC regarding a special meeting to be held on January 22, 2020 at the West Milford Library at 5:00 pm to review the final report of the Greenwood Lake Water Quality Study completed by Princeton Hydro.

3. Greenwood Lake Drawdown Public Hearings to be held on January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Camp Hope, 1792 Union Valley Road, West Milford, NJ 07480 and on February 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Greenwood Lake American Legion, 40 Mountain Lakes Lane, Greenwood lake, NY 10925.
4. Request from the GWLC to contact Governor Murphy regarding Bill #A-3804/S-2167 which will provide annual funding in the amount of \$500,000. to be used for projects for the protection of Greenwood Lake. Call 1-609-292-6000 or email constituent.relations@nj.gov.
5. ANJEC renewal Dues for 2020 - \$425.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Resident David Hardin was present to inquire if the Commission had any comments about his analysis of the EIS documents submitted for the former Green Meadows Variance application. The Commission’s Secretary advised that this matter was scheduled to be formally withdrawn and will no longer be a pending matter with the Board of Adjustment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the January 6, 2020 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:40 p.m. on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and a **second** by Jim Rogers.

Approved: February 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary