

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

January 8, 2018

The January 8, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:33 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

OATHS

The oaths of public office were administered to Stephen Sangle, Donald Weise, C. Clinton Smith and Douglas Trainor. Douglas Ott was absent and unable to sign his oath.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Dalton, David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Clinton Smith (Alt #1), Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor (Alt #2), Don Weise, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: Douglas Ott.

Also Present: Ron Farr.

Chairman Stephen Sangle requested Alternate #1 Clint Smith to sit in for Doug Ott and advised that there was a quorum for this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

NJDEP NNL \$620,197.00 Reforestation Grant Project:

Commissioner Tim Dalton advised that he and Forestry Consultant Ron Farr had been collaborating on the maps of the planting locations for the reforestation grant project. Ron Farr reported that he has completed additional revised maps, and noted that two maps from the last revisions had been correct and did not need revisions. Mr. Dalton advised that the narrative of the plan required more revisions and then the individual portions of the plan needed to be compiled into one report. He commented that he can work on this during the coming week when he is out of town on business. Mr. Dalton stressed that the plan must be completed and submitted to the State for review and approval. He also noted that a meeting must be scheduled with the contractor and the Forestry Committee. With regard to the grant documents, Mr. Dalton reported that he received several emails from the NJDEP grant administrator, and they highlight the requirements of the grant, listing this grant specifically as a reimbursement grant, with the municipality paying a contractor and then the State reimbursing the municipality. Chairman Sangle wondered whether the Township thoroughly reviewed the grant, and Mr. Farr reported that under the former CFO, a meeting was held with the contractor to advise of the procedures that could be followed so that they would be paid after the Township received the funds for the grant. Commissioner Dave Ofshinsky observed that with his past communications with the State regarding grants for the M.U.A., they often require a copy of the cancelled check before they will provide the grant funds. Chairman Sangle reported that he presented the grant opportunity to the Township Council without being aware of all of the restrictions and conditions of the grant contract. The Commissioners noted that the Township encouraged the Commission to apply for and manage this project. Mr. Dalton reported that the State is willing to work with the Commission and Township on this, but they need a plan to approve. Commissioner Jim Rogers inquired if the state will send an inspector once the plan is approved, and Mr. Dalton thought that they may, to which Mr. Rogers commented that the plan must be precise so they can refer to it during a site visit. Chairman Sangle observed that it should be an as-built plan of the planting sites. He then thanked Mr. Dalton for all the effort he has put into this project to get the plan details amended for approval. Chairman Sangle referred to the email from the State grant administrator and noted that signatures are required from the Township C.F.O. and the contractor

to make sure that all the elements of the grant project match between the contractor, the Township and the State. This includes the locations, species, quantities, sizes, and invoices.

The Commission discussed scheduling a meeting with the Township Administrator, the C.F.O., and the Forestry Committee for the following Friday at 10 am. Mr. Dalton and Mr. Farr would meet on Thursday to review the planting plan and map details. The Commission's Secretary was requested to send a memo to the Administrator and CFO and arrange the meeting for Friday. Mr. Farr reported that the new maps that he created indicate where the trees are planted, those that were damaged either by deer or contractors working near the planting sites, and those that were removed from the sites without permission. He observed that there was a car accident with a fence damaged near one of the sites, and when he conducted a follow-up visit, the fence had been repaired but the trees planted near the fence were removed.

With regard to the CSIP (Community Stewardship Incentive Program) Grant that the remaining monies for the \$620,197 grant will be deposited into, Mr. Dalton noted that the Township cannot apply for the remaining grant funds this year since the NNL Grant is still open. Mr. Dalton remarked that the Township must keep the Community Forestry Management Plan up to date and we need to remain in the program, not only for the NNL grant, but for any other grants that are available. Chairman Sangle commented that the Recycling Coordinator was supposed to assist with the program, but Mr. Dalton noted that the hours allotted for him were very limited. Mr. Dalton planned to take the webinar that was available for completing the CFMP certification documents.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Shade Tree Committee / Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: See above.

Lakes Committee/Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Commissioner Clint Smith reported there was new member on the GWL Commission, and one of their recent discussions was about possibly creating another boat launch on Greenwood Lake for non-motorized boats. Another issue that the GWL Commission is considering is the clean-up of Belchers Creek, a longer term project that would include removing debris and cutting trees that hang over the creek to provide better access for boaters. He did not expect that they would receive funding for this, and noted that it would be a New Jersey project, not New York's. He observed that from his research, he discovered that the Township owns quite a bit of the property along Belchers Creek. Chairman Sangle inquired who would perform the work, and noted that this would be a good opportunity for identifying any potential contamination issues that could be brought to the attention of the Health Dept. If certain areas appear to have possible contamination issues, the Environmental Commission could conduct tests on the water and provide the results to the Health Dept. Mr. Smith commented that it would not be a project for Scouts or volunteers and would most likely need the cooperation of the Township's public works department and possibly the NJDEP.

Open Space Committee: Commissioner Don Weise reported on a letter that was published in the local newspaper from one of the Greenwood Lake Commissioners regarding the Township's purchase of land on Westbrook Road for open space, and the possible adverse effect it could have the taxpayers when another property is taken off of the tax rolls. He suggested that a rebuttal letter be submitted to the editor advising that the Environmental Commission/Open Space Committee would not recommend properties to be removed from the tax rolls if the taxes being paid are substantial. He further noted that the Commission recommends dual or multi-purpose properties and we evaluate the value for each taxpayer. Chairman Sangle asked Mr. Weise to consider submitting his comments as a citizen member of the Commission, but also as a resident and taxpayer. The Commissioners inquired about the taxes on this property that the Township planned for open space acquisition, and the Secretary was requested to provide Mr. Weise with the information. Mr. Weise expressed concerns that the open space funds could be removed, and Chairman Sangle stated that any change to the open space funds would have to be approved by the taxpayers.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Commissioner Tom Tamayne reported that he received three suspected discharge notices and a response action outcome for property on Marshall Hill Road. Additional contamination correspondence was listed on the agenda and reviewed by the Commission.

Belchers Creek Testing Project: Testing of Belcher Creek samples was not conducted this month due to the cold and thick ice present, and it was noted that it may be several months before testing could resume. Chairman Sangle suggested that the Belchers Creek sampling be coordinated with the proposed clean-up project with the Greenwood Lake Commission. Tim Dalton and Dave Ofshinsky plan to prepare spread sheets for the data collected. With regard to the clean-up project, Clint Smith advised that it would not be a project for volunteers and should involve the Township DPW with guidance/approval from the NJDEP.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee-Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification: There was nothing new to report on this matter at this time. The Commissioners concurred that after the reforestation project is completed, they will put together a plan for possible certification.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Chairman Sangle welcomed the addition of the Commission's newest Alternate #2 member, Doug Trainor.

Dave Ofshinsky reported that he attended a recent Township Council meeting when the amended L.M.I. ordinance was discussed. He requested more time for the Commission to evaluate the ordinance for environmental impact on the Township. The Governing Body members assured him that they spent a lot of time developing this ordinance, and then proceeded to adopt it following the second reading and public hearing.

MINUTES

The minutes from the December 11, 2017 regular meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were **approved** on a **motion** by Jim Rogers and a **second** by Dave Ofshinsky.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: *The following correspondence items were reviewed by the Commission:*

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. Notification of a Highlands Applicability Determination application to the NJDEP received from Jacobs Engineering on behalf of NJ Dept. of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics, dated December 20, 2017, for 126 Airport Road, Block 6002; Lots 14 and 31 regarding the upgrade of the rotating beacon, runway and taxiway lighting, and electrical lighting vault, PAPI, and segmented circle and lighted wind cone.
2. Notification from the NJ Highlands Council, dated December 14, 2017, regarding Green Meadows Organics, Block 4601; Lots 17 and 21, for the expansion of an existing composting facility, which will not include additional impervious surface, finding that this project meets the standards for a Highlands Exemption #4 from the local officials or the NJDEP-DLUR.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Notification of a NJDEP Treatment Works Approval Permit received from Schwanewede Hals Engineering, dated December 5, 2017, for Moosehead Marina, 254 Lakeside Road, Block 3201; Lot 6 regarding installation of a septic system.
2. Suspected Hazardous Discharge notice, dated December 20, 2017, received from the NJDEP for 15 Jefferson Street, Block 16004; Lot 2, regarding the removal of a 550 gallon UST, with clean up pending.

3. Suspected Hazardous Discharge notice, dated December 12, 2017, received from the NJDEP for 279 Awosting Road, Block 3802; Lot 4.03, regarding the removal of a 550 gallon UST, with clean up pending.
4. Warning Letter from the NJDEP, dated December 8, 2017, received for 21 Deborah Lane, Block 5001; Lot 5.01, regarding the placement of approximately 756 square feet of fill material within freshwater wetlands and wetlands transition areas without approval from the NJDEP, and requiring the removal of the fill with stabilization of the disturbed area.
5. Notification of an application for a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #25, dated December 21, 2017, received from Richard Deubert, P.E. for Richard Pani, 261 Germantown Road, Block 14202; Lot 13, regarding a septic system alteration
6. Receptor Evaluation & Public Notification received from SRG Co., dated December 1, 2017, regarding Petro Two Inc., 4 Marshall Hill Road, Block 5701; Lot 3, including a Response Action Outcome for the STP sump associated with the diesel fuel UST system and no other area, advising that the remediation has been completed and in compliance with the Administrative Requirements for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites per NJAC 7:26C.
7. Freshwater Wetlands Transition Area Waiver Exemption received from the NJDEP, dated December 15, 2017, File #1615-14-0010.1 FW W 170002 regarding Thomas Berry, Block 11101; Lot 23.03, advising that the exemption applies only to the Transition Area requirements for the installation of a gravel driveway for access to a tree house, and does not eliminate the need for any permits, approvals or certifications required by Federal, State, County or Municipal agencies with jurisdiction over this project.

Miscellaneous

1. New Jersey Planner November –December issue.
2. HEPSCD Transfer of a Portion of Certification of a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated November 16, 2017, ID #205-P-2783, received for Greene Valley Estates, 61 Virginia Lane, Block 10002; Lot 6.
3. HEPSCD Certification of a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated November 27, 2017, ID #217-P-4585, received for Fontana Condos, 165 Lakeside Road, Block 3401; Lot 21 and Block 3406; Lot 23.
4. HEPSCD Certification of a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated November 15 2017, ID #217-P-4576, received for Darmstatter Lincoln Garage and Grading.
5. Sustainable Jersey Certification Grant opportunities from The Land Conservancy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the January 8, 2018 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:40 p.m. on a **motion** by Dave Ofshinsky and a second by Tim Dalton.

Approved: February 5, 2018

Respectfully submitted

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary