

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

February 3, 2020

The February 3, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

Prior to Roll Call, the Oaths of Office were administered to James Rogers and David Ofshinsky.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Dalton, David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor
Don Weise, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: Clinton Smith.

Also Present: Sana Mirza

Ms. Mirza, graduate student in environmental science, was present to observe and comment on testing methods of Belcher Creek water samples that occurred prior to the regular meeting. Ms. Mirza suggested that the Commission could partner with a university who would have students available for volunteering to conduct nitrate and phosphate testing. She also suggested that the department heads for ecology or environmental science of local universities be contacted to arrange for student volunteers. With regard to the testing protocols, she surmised that the Commission was proceeding in the correct manner by logging data about the nitrates and phosphates as well as weather conditions, and temperatures of air and water. Jim Rogers will reach out to Montclair State and Passaic County Technical School for volunteers to assist with testing. Tim Dalton will contact Dan Novack and ask him to announce it on the electronic back pack system at the High School. Chairman Sangle noted that the Watershed Ambassador would be able to assist with Belchers Creek Testing, but after they attend one meeting, they never seem to return. Tim Dalton suggested that Passaic County be contacted to intercede in getting assistance from the Watershed Ambassador.

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS

NADUE NACAJ

Bulk Variance #ZB-11-19-19

Block 12001; Lot 29

1006 Macopin Road; OR Zone

Seeking: Bulk Variance approval for a side yard setback for a house renovation and expansion of an existing kitchen, where 75 feet is required and 12.3 feet is proposed.

Following a review of the submitted documents for the above referenced application, the Commission advised that there were no apparent environmental concerns.

ON GOING BUSINESS

ANJEC 2019 OSS Grant Project: Jim Rogers reported on a Greenwood Lake Commission meeting held on January 22, 2020 regarding the Watershed Implementation Plan presented in conjunction with the Princeton Hydro and the NJ Highlands Council. He noted that the Highlands Council had provided funding for the planning grant, which will encompass Belchers Creek. When the plan has been completed, it will allow for funding for projects to be

completed in the future. Mr. Rogers explained that the plan entailed 9 elements, including the most recent methods for approaching stormwater runoff. One of the main goals was to identify sources of pollution to Greenwood Lake, adding that Belchers Creek was identified as a source of nutrient overload to GWL. He reported that the meeting included a discussion regarding storm drains, and one of the Highland's representative, Carl Richko, had commented that the Township does not clean out storm drains for private lake communities. The Commissioners disagreed with that statement, and several noted that the Township maintains the storm drains in their lake communities, including Pinecliff Lake and Upper Greenwood Lake. Mr. Rogers reported that Princeton Hydro advised that the condition of Greenwood Lake has improved over the past fifteen years. They did, however, indicate that the cost for a comprehensive cleanup of GWL would cost approximately 13+ million. With regard to the \$500,000. annual funding appropriation that did not get final approval from the State, Mr. Rogers commented that one of the main reasons was due to the lake's Bi-State status.

Lakes Committee / Lake Management Planning: Jim Rogers reported that a meeting was planned with the Lakes Committee, the Mayor and the Highlands Council to review the proposed watershed implementation plan for the Township. He observed that Princeton Hydro is preparing the GWL Watershed Mgt Plan, and it would make sense to use them as consultants for the Township's plan. Commissioner Tim Dalton was in contact with the Highlands Council and they are proposing that the individual lakes get grants through the Township, but there will be an opportunity for a full scale watershed management plan. Mr. Rogers confirmed that the Highlands Council intended to review the sub-watersheds that feed into the lakes.

Belchers Creek – Call To Action – Mr. Rogers reviewed the Call For Action that he distributed to the Commissioners, and requested that this be included in any study involved with individual lakes so that it creates a holistic approach. He noted that as environmental stewards, the Commission had a voice in this process.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: 319 Grant Application for GWL – Chairman Sangle reviewed a request from Princeton Hydro for a recommendation to the NJDEP endorsing an application for another 319 grant. The Secretary was requested to prepare a letter of support from the Commission.

Shade Tree Committee – The annual membership renewal for the Shade Tree Commission is being processed. Tim Dalton advised that he was waiting to meet with Administration to review several matters required for the annual CFMP, which was due February 15, 2020.

Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: Tim Dalton advised that a 5 Year Extension Request was submitted to the NJDEP Division of Forestry. He has requested to meet with the Administration to begin planning the updated plan which will be due in 2024.

NJDEP NNL Forestry Grant Project Closeout: Chairman Sangle requested that he and Tim Dalton meet with the Administration to determine how they wish to approach the closeout of the NNL Grant project with Fullerton Grounds maintenance. He suggested that the Township CFO or Township Attorney prepare a letter to Fullerton as there may be legal ramifications involved. There are about 100 trees that must be re-planted to comply with the State's assessment for the 95% survival rate. He also requested Mr. Dalton to contact the State to inquire if they will be re-inspecting the trees. Mr. Dalton was sure that the State would be back to re-inspect the re-planted trees, and advised that the Township would be responsible for maintenance of the trees.

Open Space Committee: Chairman Sangle advised that he and Don Weise would attend an upcoming Council meeting to request the Township to provide Open Space funds for an Updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. He noted that there was a set amount in the Open Space Fund that was deposited prior to the referendum that can only be used for land acquisitions, and several of the Council members understood the need for an updated Open

Space Plan and the amount of time and effort that is required for preparation of a comprehensive plan. Commissioner Don Weise commented that the Open Space Master Plan and Trails Master Plan must be up to date so that we are able to move forward on projects to create a meaningful connection, adding that the open space plan does not effectively incorporate the business areas. He advised that he had been speaking with a representative from Passaic County who is working on a plan to use Camp Hope as a resource for recreation, and he was requested to do trail seminars.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reviewed the contamination issues that he received, as well as those that were listed on the agenda.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee: Tim Dalton reported that sustainable West Milford was up and running, so he will be in contact with them, as well as Renee Alessio, who assisted with the Sustainable Jersey certification for the Township in the past.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Boat License Course (Belchers Creek Project) – Chairman Sangle advised those members who would be using the boat on Belchers Creek to take the licensing course and obtain a boat license to avoid any potential liability issues. Commissioner Tom Tamayne commented that the course is online, and the test is taken at the DMV.

Algae Control Options – The Commission discussed the algae issue that occurred on Greenwood Lake last summer and the funds that have been allocated by the State for algae control measures. Mr. Rogers noted that matching funds may be required. Chairman Sangle observed that someone should be appointed to coordinate the efforts with the State and Federal Government on the algae issue.

Roadside Weed Spraying - Jim Rogers reported that Passaic County has agreed to suspend spraying roundup on the roadside weeds for one year to assess the cutting of weeds versus the use of chemicals.

MINUTES

The minutes from the January 2020 regular meeting of the W.M. Environmental Commission were **approved** on a **motion** by Jim Rogers with a **second** by Don Weise.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

The Commission reviewed the following correspondence items:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence – None.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. NJDEP-Forestry Division – Annual Accomplishment Report Due 02-15-20.
2. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge, NJDEP Case #20-01-09-1248-34, dated January 10, 2020, received for the intersection of Westbrook Road and Morsetown Road.
3. NJDEP No Further Action Notification, dated January 6, 2020, received for Florey, 60 Upper Greenwood Road, Block 2403; Lot 4, regarding the removal of one 330 gallon #2 H.O. AST.
4. NJDEP No Further Action Notification, dated January 3, 2020, received for Wilmington Savings Fund Society, 16 Jefferson Street, Block 16002; Lot 4, regarding the removal of one 550 gallon #2 H.O. UST.

5. NJDEP No Further Action Notification, dated January 3, 2020, received for Wilmington Savings Fund Society, 16 Jefferson Street, Block 16002; Lot 4, regarding the removal of one 275 gallon #2 H.O. AST.
6. NJDEP-Dam Safety correspondence, dated January 6, 2020, regarding the Dam Safety Inspection Report for the High Crest Lake Dam, NJ Dam File No. 22-161, advising that the recent report from GZA GeoEnvironmental found the dam to be in POOR condition, with a dam safety permit application required by October 31, 2020 outlining how the deficiencies will be addressed.
7. Correspondence dated January 7, 2020 received from DuBois & Associates regarding applications being submitted for a Freshwater Wetlands LOI-Line Verification, GP #11, Special Activity Transition Area Waiver, and Flood Hazard Area General Permit by Certification #8 to the NJDEP for Kingwood Flex, Block 6401; Lots 1 & 3, Union Valley Road.
8. Copy of correspondence sent to the NJDEP–Bureau of Solid Waste Compliance & Enforcement, from George Cascino, P.E., regarding a Notice of Violation for Kurt Renzland, 921 Burnt Meadow Rd, Block 6002; Block 39.02, for failing to obtain a Solid Waste Facility Permit per NJAC 7:26 2.8(f), advising that the owner may qualify for an exemption for sole generator Class B activities under NJAC 7:26A-1.4, Subsection 20.
9. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge, NJDEP Case #20-01-21-1745-01, dated January 22, 2020 received for 9 Homestead Rd., Block 2709; Lot 6, regarding suspected soil contamination from 2014.
10. Correspondence from ADR Environmental, dated January 15, 2020, satisfying the Public Notification Requirement regarding the Verkerke Property, Block 16901; Lot 2, 3520 Route 23, Stockholm, NJ, advising that contamination has been confirmed during a recent site investigation from a 2001 contamination, with remedial investigation and excavation to commence to determine the full extent of contamination from the two 550 gallon leaded gasoline UST systems.
11. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge, NJDEP Case #20-01-20-1200-24, received for 173 LaRue Road, Block 15401; Lot 55, regarding #2 H.O. spill as a result of a loose fill on the tank; clean-up was in progress.
12. NJDEP Community Right To Know 2019 Survey, dated January 14, 2020, received for Tanis Concrete Inc, 173 Oak Ridge Road, Block 15901; Lot 5, regarding the production, use or storage of NJ CRTK Environmental Hazardous Substances, including Acetylene, Diesel Fuel and/or #2 Heating Oil.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. Annual Shade Tree Committee Membership List – Annual Dues \$95.00.
2. Greenwood Lake Drawdown Public Hearings on January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Camp Hope, 1792 Union Valley Road, West Milford, NJ 07480 and February 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Greenwood Lake American Legion, 40 Mountain Lakes Lane, Greenwood lake, NY 10925.
4. HEPSCD Certification of the Stafford Macopin Improvements - Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated January 22, 2020, regarding 711 Macopin Road, Block 14001; Lot 16.
5. Correspondence from ANJEC, dated January 21, 2020, requesting municipalities to encourage the adoption of a single use plastic ban ordinance.
6. Public Notice from the Township of West Milford regarding a Public Hearing on 02-19-20, 6:30 pm, West Milford Town Hall, regarding the submission of a 2020 Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant Application to fund the improvement and rehabilitation of Nosenzo Pond Park–Phase 4, for the Septic System, Well and Restrooms.

7. HEPSCD Re-Certification of the Renzland Residence Demo & Rebuild – Recertification of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated December 12, 2019, regarding 900 Burnt Meadow Rd, Block 4601; Lot 16.
8. HEPSCD Re-Certification of the Twins Realty Group -Sediment Control Plan, dated December 12, 2019, regarding 937 Burnt Meadow Road, Block 3906, 6002, Lot 39.01, 9 10.
9. HEPSCD Re-Certification of the Greene Valley Estates - Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated December 12, 2019, regarding 47, 70, 56, 28 Virginia Lane, Block 10002; Lots 4, 10, 12, 16.
10. HEPSCD Re-Certification of the Village On Ridge II - Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated December 4, 2019, regarding Heritage, Eagles Nest, Mine Hill, Burma, Blocks 5202, 5203, 5204, 5205; Lots 2-36, 1-14, 19-30, 2-15, 2-9.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the February 3, 2020 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:10 p.m. on a **motion** by Dave Ofshinsky and a **second** by Tim Dalton.

Approved: March 2, 2020

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary