

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

February 6, 2017

The February 6, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:31 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice followed by administration of oaths to David Ofshinsky – Citizen Member and C. Clinton Smith – Alternate #1.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Dalton, David Ofshinsky, Douglas Ott, James Rogers, Thomas Tamayne, Don Weise, Alt. #1 Clinton Smith, and Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Ron Farr.

Chairman Sangle advised that there was a quorum for this meeting. Jim Rogers advised that he will reach out to an acquaintance who may be interested in the position of Alternate #2.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

NJDEP NNL \$620,197.00 Reforestation Grant Project: An update on the Reforestation Grant project was provided by Ron Farr, consulting forester. Mr. Farr reported that the end of March was the tentative time frame to begin planting the trees, based on the mild winter that we experienced, to date. Mr. Farr has been in contact with Tim Roetman of the Parks & Recreation Department about removal of the pavement near Bubbling Springs so the planting can commence at that site. Mr. Farr also reviewed the site that is proposed for the solar project at the Wallisch Farmstead, and noted that it will not interfere with tree planting scheme. He advised that the landscaping contractor would like to begin as soon as possible with the tree planting. The Commission discussed the benefits of solar installation at the schools and the reluctance on the part of the Board of Ed to make the commitment. Mr. Farr commented that he would speak to the school administration to confirm the tree planting scheme approval for the school properties. Commissioner Tom Tamayne noted that the tree planting wasn't planned for the summer months, but this was the time that there were no students on the premises.

With regard to the Township's Community Forestry Management Plan and the NJ Shade Tree Federation, the Commission was required to provide an annual report and verification of CEU's obtained for 2016. Tim Dalton advised that he would prepare the report that was due to be submitted by February 15, 2017. Mr. Farr advised that he would provide (2017 Shade Tree) forestry training, with a topic yet to be determined, to the Commission at 6:30 pm prior to the next meeting on March 6, 2017 to comply with the Township's certification requirements for this program. The Secretary will obtain a copy of the recently adopted Shade Tree Committee resolution for submission to the State.

Open Space – ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant Proposal – Norvin Green North Trail Improvement Project: Commissioner Don Weise reported on a project that the Commission could consider for an ANJEC grant application in collaboration with the NY/NJ Trail Conference. He reviewed the trails on the east side of the Township that were part of the Norvin Green State Park, and noted that many of the trails near Weis Ecology Center and Norvin Green are overcrowded, but the trails near Morsetown, Burnt Meadow Road, and off of Greenwood Lake Turnpike were underutilized. The intention of the Trail Conference was to reconfigure the trails to make contiguous loops and create east - west and north - south connectors. Mr. Weise reported that the Trail Conference had planned to implement the connectors, and had also spoken to the NJDEP about the project, and they appeared to support the plans. The grant funds requested from ANJEC will be in the amount of \$1500.00, with no match required. Mr. Weise noted that the Trail Conference will need to supplement the funds required for the project, as well as coordinate volunteers to perform the work.

Following discussion, the Commission **unanimously approved** the submission of an application for the ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant in the amount of \$1500.00 following a **motion** by Chairman Sangle, with a **second** by Doug Ott. Mr. Weise will prepare the grant documents and

provide them to the Commission Secretary, and the Secretary will prepare a memo and draft resolution for the Administrator and Township Council's approval.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

CAROL HARDY

Use Variance #ZB-08-16-16

Block 4102; Lot 7

140 Long Pond Rd.; LR Zone

Seeking: Use Variance approval for an accessory apartment in an existing single family dwelling.

Following a review of the use variance for an accessory apartment at Block 4102; Lot 7, constructed in an existing footprint without prior approval, the Commission advised that there did not appear to be any apparent environmental concerns with the application.

Shade Tree Committee: Update above under the NNL Reforestation grant report.

Lakes Committee: No report at this time.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Clint Smith reported that the grant for the Greenwood Lake stump removal was still available to the GWL Commission, so they are planning to have the stumps removed in the Spring with a company that utilizes an underwater saw.

Open Space Committee: See above under Grant Management and Status Review.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reported on various contamination issues including 4 No Further Action notices, and 3 Suspected Hazardous Discharge notices. The Commission inquired if the new Health Officer is aware of the contamination on Greenwood Lake Turnpike (at the site owned by Adelo Corporation).

Green Team–Sustainability Committee - Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification – Application due by June 2017. It was reported that the Commission was contacted by resident Mark Cirullo who expressed an interest in the Green Team. Commissioner Jim Rogers advised that the Sustainability Subcommittee/Green Team needs to determine which items are carry overs, which action items are new, and those that need to be added for the Sustainable Jersey Recertification. He will meet with Commissioner Tim Dalton to review the items that the Township received certification for in 2014. Commissioner Tom Tamayne explained that if there are action items that have not expired, then they will still count towards recertification. Chairman Sangle advised that the site plans and variances that the Commission reviews each month count towards points for Sustainable Jersey. Mr. Dalton said that they need to devise a plan for execution. Commissioner Don Weise advised that he will assist with the recertification process and requested that some action items be assigned to him.

Belchers Creek Testing Project: Tim Dalton reported that he obtained the testing equipment from the Commission's Secretary, and he reviewed the books and set up the calibration. He explained that the phosphate testing standard solution was expired, but the nitrate solution was still good, and both tests passed calibration. The phosphate came up as 0, and the nitrate was at the top of the scale at 98.3. Mr. Dalton noted that the nitrate seemed to work depending on the concentration, but the phosphate does not appear to be working. The parts are all included with the equipment and they appear functional, but the phosphate would not work for him. He has the contact info for the company and he hoped that by the next meeting we will know the status of the equipment. It was noted that we will need to purchase new solution. With regard to the testing protocol, Mr. Dalton advised that the responses should be scaled, but part of the process is learning how to use the equipment. He further noted that a data base will be developed noting the nitrate and phosphate levels and locations.

Chairman Sangle requested Kathleen Fitzgerald, Watershed Ambassador, if she could assist with the testing at one of the various locations that included Crescent Park, Belchers Creek and Pinecliff Lake Dam. Ms. Fitzgerald advised that she was working on a site near Arnold Road, and Chairman Sangle suggested that she take vials and collect samples for the Commission. Ms. Fitzgerald further advised that she is involved with 6 sites in West Milford and will be on the project until mid-July. Chairman Sangle noted that if fecal coliform was evident, the Commission would contact the Health Dept. Mr.

Tamayne observed that the tests being conducted were informational tests, but the data can be passed on to the Health Dept. for further investigation. Chairman Sangle stated that the testing conducted by the Commission was only for informational purposes, and the results can be provided to the Health Dept. for further testing, if warranted, with the information available to surrounding municipalities. He suggested that the Commission start out small and see how it develops, since the testing will be affected by testing frequency, rainfall, temperatures, etc.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Illegal Dumping: The Commission discussed an email received from Bob Jonas regarding illegal dumping at various trail sites, and considered the purchase of solar powered cameras for installation at various trailhead locations. Mr. Rogers advised that the Recycling Coordinator was in the process of getting cameras for certain Township sites to try to identify the persons dumping trash illegally. Mr. Tamayne noted that the batteries can be an issue with the cameras. Chairman Sangle suggested that money be appropriated in the Commission's budget to purchase the cameras at a cost of \$60 – 70. each.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the October 5, 2015 regular meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were **unanimously approved** on a **motion** by Tom Tamayne with a **second** by Tim Dalton.

The Minutes from the January 9, 2017 regular meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were **unanimously approved** on a **motion** by Tom Tamayne with a **second** by Tim Dalton.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. Notification from PSE&G, dated January 20, 2017, advising of a Highlands application to the NJDEP seeking a Highlands Applicability and Water Quality Management Plan Consistency Determination – Exemption #11, for the upgrade of a radio communication system at 246 Morsetown Road, Block 4701; Lots 22 & 43, including the installation of radio equipment on a steel platform under the existing tower, placement of whip antennas on the transmission tower, and installation of a natural gas generator adjacent to an existing gravel access road along a right of way.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification, NJDEP Case #17-01-19-1016-26, dated January 20, 2017, received for 110 Weaver Road, Block 12501; Lot 22, regarding vehicle fluid spills from an auto recycling business.
2. NJDEP Community Right to Know 2016 Survey dated January 18, 2017 received from Suez Water – West Milford Sewer Treatment for active facility located on Richmond Road for the treatment of domestic sewage in an above ground tank – this facility either produces, stores, or uses NJ CRTK environmental hazardous substance.
3. HEPSCD-Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of a soil erosion and sediment control plan for 3.5 years, dated December 19, 2016, received for Coyman Yellowstone SFD Demo and Rebuild, 6 Yellowstone Ave., Block 3703; Lot 15, with 0.153 acres of total area or land to be disturbed.
4. HEPSCD-Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of a soil erosion and sediment control plan for 3.5 years, dated December 27, 2016, received for Barrantes Macopin Residential Improvements and Grading, at 885 Macopin Road, Block 14301; Lot 18, with 0.64 acres total area or land to be disturbed.
5. No Further Action correspondence, dated January 9, 2017, received from the NJDEP regarding the removal of a 550 gal #2 heating oil UGST at 4 Hawthorne Road, Block 1804; Lot 6.

6. No Further Action correspondence, dated January 4, 2017, received from the NJDEP regarding the removal of a 550 gal #2 heating oil UGST at 8 Upper High Crest Drive, Block 13103; Lot 6.
7. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification, NJDEP Case #17-01-09-1320-05, dated January 10, 2017, received for PJD Petro, 1367 Union Valley Road, Block 7508; Lot 16, regarding a corroded spill bucket that caused leakage, with clean up completed.
8. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification, NJDEP Case #17-01-10-1232-22, dated January 11, 2017, received for a residence at 707 Warwick Tpk., Block 1001; Lot 40, regarding a 275 gal AGST removal, with clean-up pending.

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received/Sent

1. ANJEC – 2017 Open Space Stewardship Grants – Applications due April 7, 2017.
2. Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification due June 4, 2017.
3. Forest Habitat for Wildlife – Workshop for Forest Landowners on 02-07-17 at Kinnelon Library from 6 to 8 and 02-15-17 at Sussex Library, from 6 to 8.
4. ANJEC Environmental Commission Training – Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions March 4 - NJ Audubon Preserve, Cranbury; March 25 – Cranford Community Center, Cranford; April 1 – Atlantic County Utilities, Egg Harbor Twp.
5. 21st Land Conservation Rally-Conference, March 17, 2017, 8–5, Hyattt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ.
6. Township of West Milford Amended Noise Ordinance – Ordinance 2017-001, introduced Feb. 1, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Commissioners Tim Dalton, Jim Rogers, and Clint Smith advised that they were interested in attending the environmental commission training with ANJEC on March 4, 2017. The Secretary was requested to contact ANJEC regarding the registration and an update on the annual dues.

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the February 6, 2017 meeting was **adjourned** at **8:35 p.m.** on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and a **second** by Dave Ofshinsky.

Approved: March 6, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary