

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

March 2, 2020

The March 2, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:03 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Thomas Tamayne, Clinton Smith.

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

WILLIAM & CHERYL STILLMAN

Bulk Variance # ZB-02-20-02

Block 5009; Lot 17

1038 Westbrook Rd.; R-4 Zone

Seeking: Bulk Variance approval for a 480 sf addition to include 2 new bedrooms, in addition to a screened-in porch, for a total of 660 sf disturbance, with bulk variances requested for side yard setback where 60 ft is required and 47.94 ft is proposed, and rear yard setback where 125 ft is required and 106.5 ft is proposed.

Following a review of the application, the Commission recommended that the applicant consider installation of rain barrels to address the additional run-off from the increased impervious surface.

ON GOING BUSINESS

ANJEC 2019 OSS Grant Project: Commissioner Jim Rogers reported that the Commission received the dissolved oxygen kits that were ordered from Hach as part of the grant project. He advised that there was nothing new to report on the ANJEC grant project, and noted that he will be working on the final report that was due in June.

Belchers Creek – Mr. Rogers reported that the Planning Board Master Plan Committee had met in February regarding the Highlands Economic Development Plan, and he provided information to the Township Planner regarding the Belchers Creek project and the “Call to Action.”

Lakes Committee / Lake Management Planning: Jim Rogers reported that the Lakes Committee plans to hold a meeting in March regarding the Lake Assessment and Watershed Management Plan. Other lake related business has been on hold during the winter months.

Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: Commissioner Tim Dalton advised that he and the EC Chairman would be meeting with the Administrator on Friday, March 6, 2020 regarding the updated Community Forestry Management Plan. A 5-Year Extension was granted by the NJDEP Division of Forestry, so the Township has four years to complete the new plan.

NJDEP NNL Forestry Grant Project Closeout: Tim Dalton reported that he was contacted by Fullerton Grounds Maintenance regarding the Forestry Grant project. Mr. Dalton is requesting a meeting with the owner of Fullerton and the Township Administrator on the

close out of the grant. Chairman Stephen Sangle noted that Fullerton was to send a letter of intent regarding the completion of the project. This will be included in the discussion with the Administrator, and all options will be reviewed with regard to this matter.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: The Commission's Secretary prepared a letter of support from the Commission to the NJDEP endorsing an application by Princeton Hydro for the Greenwood Lake Commission regarding a new 319 grant.

Shade Tree Committee – The annual membership renewal for the Shade Tree Commission was processed. Tim Dalton advised that he was waiting to meet with Administration to review several matters required for the annual CFMP.

Open Space Committee: Commissioner Don Weise was in contact with Barbara Davis from Tohe Land Conservancy and discussed prioritizing the parcels for the Open Space Master Plan Update, including Belchers Creek, Lake communities, and the Greenway properties. He noted that there is good mapping available which should help with the update. He advised that Ms. Davis is an administrator with the Land Conservancy, and she will be working with Jen Gallagher, who will be compiling the information for the updated plan. They have also requested a report on the finances and funding for open space, and Finance Dept. provided the information to them. Input from the Commission on open space information has been requested. Mr. Weise commented about a possible base camp for file sharing. Chairman Sangle suggested that Mr. Weise contact the Engineering Dept. and request that they coordinate their GIS mapping with the Land Conservancy. Mr. Weise reported that tentative date of May 4, 2020 was being considered for the "kick-off meeting." Chairman Sangle suggested that the Commission invite Dan Kochakji from recreation, as well as the Mayor and Council, Administrator, DPW Supervisor, Engineering, and WM77TV. Mr. Weise further reported that the Land Conservancy requested a copy of the 2000 Open Space Plan with the addendums, as well as the Recreation Master Plan, and a map of historically designated sites in the Township. Chairman Sangle reiterated that much of the information can be obtained from the Engineering Dept., and the Commission's secretary will provide the information that she has in the Planning Dept.

The Commissioners appointed to serve as the Open Space Committee are Don Weise, Dave Ofshinsky, Doug Trainor and Jim Rogers, and they will assist the Land Conservancy in the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan Update. Chairman Sangle advised that he invited a resident, Janet Little, to the next meeting for consideration in becoming a new member of the Commission. Mr. Weise noted that he had spoken to Linda Glosinsky from the Land Conservancy, and she may attend the kick-off meeting for the Updated Open Space Master Plan in May.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne was absent from the meeting, but the Commission reviewed the contamination issues listed on the agenda.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee: There was no new information on the Green Team or the Sustainable Jersey program at this time.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Boat License Course (Belchers Creek Project) – Jim Rogers reported that the Recreation Dept. announced boating classes for \$69. The courses are taken on-line and the test taken at the MVC. Chairman Sangle advised that Coast Guard offers classes too, and he encouraged the Commissioners to get the license to avoid any potential liability issues, especially with the ongoing Belchers Creek projects. Chairman Sangle suggested that maybe the grant funds can be used to offset the cost of the boating license.

Watershed Based Assessment & Management Plan – Jim Rogers advised that the Lakes Committee will discuss the Watershed Management Plan at the March meeting.

Volunteer of the Year Program – 04-22-20 6:30 pm –Chairman Sangle nominated Tim Dalton for Volunteer of the Year, with consensus of the Commission.

Heron Nesting – Bald Eagle Village – Doug Trainor advised that the dam by Bald Eagle Village, on Pettet Pond, has to be replaced, and about 20 trees were removed between the apartment buildings and the Bald Eagle Village complex. One of the residents, who was concerned about the tree removal affecting the herons, had his attorney send a letter to the NJDEP and Bald Eagle Village. Representatives of the Audubon Society spoke to the manager at B.E.V. and requested that the dam project be delayed to allow the herons to nest. Fencing will be installed where the trees and brush were removed.

ATT Cell Tower – Lakeside Road - Commissioner Don Weise suggested that the owner move the proposed 155 ft ATT cell tower location away from Greenwood lake south to a small ridge, which would hide the tower but still provide the reception needed for the cell tower. The Commission requested that the owner be advised that alternate locations be considered to make the tower less obtrusive to residents.

Highlands Preserve – Former San Cap – Jim Rogers reported that the Planning Board provided a courtesy review of the proposed Passaic County project for renovating the fields at the former San Cap site in Hewitt. There will be fencing installed and the fields will be restored, and access to the trails will be provided in that vicinity. Dave Ofshinsky reported that new fines are being proposed for use of off road vehicles on roads. Chairman Sangle requested that Don Weise contact the Police Dept. and request that they use discretion on ticketing. He also requested that the NY/NJ Trail Conference consider adding signage at Trail heads.

MINUTES

The minutes from the February 3, 2020 regular meeting of the W.M. Environmental Commission were **approved** on a **motion** by Tim Dalton with a **second** by Jim Rogers.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. Highlands Applicability Determination application copy received from Alaimo Group, dated February 7, 2020, seeking an exemption regarding the Passaic County Highlands Preserve Athletic Field Improvement Project, Block 2902; Lot 3.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notice, dated February 18, 2020, regarding 10 Longstreak Road, Block 15203; Lot 8, with respect to the removal of one 300 gal #2 HO AGST, with clean-up pending.

2. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notice, dated February 8, 2020, regarding 3520 Rt. 23, Block 16901; Lot 2, with respect to a leak in one 275 gal #2 HO AGST, with clean-up pending.

3. Flood Hazard Area Verification and Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit #1615-19-0025.1 LUP 190001, dated 01-28-20, received for Alyson Hearon, 37 Madelyn Ave., Block 6604; Lot 1 for the reconstruction of a malfunctioning septic system in the floodway of Belcher Creek.

4. No Further Action notice received from the NJDEP, dated Feb. 21, 2020, regarding the removal of a 550 gal #2 HO UST at 18 Eagle Rock Rd., Block 8802; Lot 37.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. HEPSCD, dated December 4, 2020, certifying the soil erosion and sediment control plan for Village on Ridge, regarding Blocks 5202, 5203, 5205, Lots 2, 36, 1-14, 19-30, 2-15, 2-9, with expiration on Oct 2, 2021.

2. Correspondence from Passaic County dated January 31, 2020, regarding Pawlick/Hollfelder Minor Subdivision for 36 Grove Street and 31 Harrison Street, Block 16006; Lots 1.02 and 6, advising that the applicant has been granted unconditional approval.
3. Correspondence from Passaic County dated January 31, 2020, regarding Carroll Holdings Minor Subdivision for 99 Long Pond Road, Block 4106; Lot 1, advising that the applicant has been granted unconditional approval.
4. Copy of correspondence to the NJDEP from Robert Moshman, Esq., dated February 19, 2020, representing James Louis, regarding concerns about potential disturbance of blue herons at the Bald Eagle Village – Pettet Pond during the ongoing dam repair project.
5. HEPSCD, dated January 7, 2020, certifying the soil erosion and sediment control plan for Kingwood Flex LLC, 1590-1610 Union Valley Road, Block 6401; Lots 1, 3.
6. HEPSCD, dated January 2, 2020, certifying the soil erosion and sediment control plan for Farrell Soccer Field Rehabilitation, Lycosky Drive, Block 6002; Lot 28.02.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the March 2, 2020 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:10 p.m. on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and a **second** by Dave Ofshinsky.

Approved: July 6, 2020

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary