

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

March 6, 2017

The March 6, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Clinton Smith.

Also Present: Ron Farr, Kathleen Fitzgerald.

Chairman Sangle advised that there was a quorum for this meeting. This regular meeting followed a one hour training session for the Environmental Commission facilitated by Ron Farr, certified forester, on Roadside Tree Management which began at 6:30 p.m. This program provided training and CEU's required annually by the NJDEP's Community Forestry Management Plan.

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 Recreation Director, Tim Roetman, has arranged for the pavement to be removed from a section of Bubbling Springs to make room for tree planting at the site. He advised that the tentative date for the tree delivery is March 14, 2017 at the PAL/Recreation Building. The PAL and Hillcrest will be the first sites planted, with Wallisch Estates as the second site. This will be followed by plantings at Apple Acres, Bubbling Springs, Mt. Laurel, Brown's Point, Farrell Field and Sand Cap. The Museum and Town Hall complex is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 1. Mr. Farr reported that he met with representatives of the Presbyterian Church and they informed him that they do not want trees planted on their site due to a concern about leaf and tree branch maintenance. Mr. Farr advised that approximately 1300 trees are projected to be planted by the end of May. He will notify the police when the trees are delivered to the PAL Building as a security measure. The Commission discussed storing the trees at Bubbling Springs and the safety of the trees that are stored in a remote location. Chairman Sangle requested that Mr. Farr inform the Commission when the trees are delivered and when they have been planted so the Commission can schedule site visits to the various locations to inspect the trees.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

Community and Environmental Impact Statement

BUDDY FOREST

Bulk Variance #ZB-09-16-19

Block 411; Lot 1

Larchmont Drive; LR Zone

Seeking: Bulk Variance approval and a DeMinimis Exception From Residential Site Improvement Standards for Lot Frontage for the construction of a driveway, walkway, septic system for a new 5 bedroom single family dwelling on a lot that has no frontage on an improved public road.

The Commission reviewed the Community and Environmental Impact Statement as well as the plans prepared by Houser Engineering LLC that were submitted to the Board of Adjustment for a Bulk Variance for Block 411; Lot 1. Commissioner Tom Tamayne noted that there appeared to be two 1000 gallon seepage pits proposed for stormwater run-off. Due to the steep slopes on the site, he questioned whether the two tanks would be sufficient and suggested that the BOA Engineer verify that the proposed seepage pits are adequate for the drainage area. It was noted that there were no

houses located in the immediate area that would be affected by stormwater run-off. Following their review of the application and plans, the Commission directed that a memo be sent to the Board of Adjustment requesting their Board Engineer to verify that the two 1000 gallon seepage pits proposed will be adequate for this site. There were no other apparent environmental concerns noted with this application.

Open Space – ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant Proposal – Norvin Green North Trail Improvement Project: Commissioner Don Weise reported that the grant application that is in collaboration with the NY/NJ Trail Conference is in the process of being prepared. He will send a copy of the draft to Tim Dalton and Jim Rogers for review and comments.

Shade Tree Committee: West Milford Township's Community Forestry Management Plan annual report for 2016 was submitted to the NJDEP Division of Forestry, along with the list of attendees for a powerpoint presentation on Invasive Species that was facilitated by Ron Farr in March 2016 to satisfy the CEU requirements.

Lakes Committee: No report at this time.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: No report at this time.

Open Space Committee: Don Weise reported that a closing on the purchase of the Terrace Pond North trail was anticipated. Tim Dalton commented about a parking area along Clinton Road that had signs stating that the area was closed for parking, and wondered if that location belonged to Newark Watershed. Mr. Weise thought that the location referred to was part of the Waywayanda State Park, not Newark. Mr. Dalton would inquire about this when he renews his permit to access Newark Watershed. The Watershed Ambassador, Kathleen Fitzgerald, commented that she thought the area was closed off due to the amount of hikers who were getting lost in that location. Chairman Sangle noted that persons with disabilities can access state parks for no cost.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reported on various contamination issues including 3 No Further Action notices, and 4 Suspected Hazardous Discharge notices, as well as a vapor intrusion notification.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee - Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification – Application due by June 2017. Commissioner Jim Rogers reported that he met with Tim Dalton regarding the re-certification for the Sustainable Jersey program. They reviewed the actions that they need to pursue and will continue to work toward meeting the deadline for submission. Mr. Weise requested that they assign one of the action items to him so that he can work on it independently. Chairman Sangle noted that the site plan reviews that the Commission performs at their meetings should qualify for points with Sustainable Jersey. The Commission Secretary will send copies of the reviews to the Commissioners for possible inclusion with the Sustainable Jersey documents.

Belchers Creek Testing Project: Tim Dalton had nothing to report at this time other than he continues to work on the calibration of the equipment. Chairman Sangle suggested that April would be the earliest that testing could begin. Ms. Fitzgerald advised that Commission that she would assist with the testing. Jim Rogers advised that he reached out to a resident and acquaintance of his who has a chemistry background, and invited him to attend the meeting and also assist the Commission with the sampling of Belchers Creek. Mr. Dalton said that he would contact him. Chairman Sangle suggested that sample bottles be given to Ms. Fitzgerald so she has them when she conducts her water sampling. Tom Tamayne recommended that the Commissioners use a buddy system when conducting the sampling at the various locations as a safety precaution.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Security Cameras – Norvin Green Trails and Beaver Dam at Environmental Boardwalk – Chairman Sangle reported that he purchased cameras (trail cams) at Cabellas for the Norvin Green Trail and the Environmental Boardwalk on Maple Road based on a discussion by the Commission at their last meeting with regard to illegal dumping on the trails and the beaver damage at the

boardwalk. Mr. Tamayne commented that SD cards and locks are usually required, and that monthly downloads may be necessary if there is suspected activity. Chairman Sangle noted that they have a one year battery and 80 feet of coverage. The Commission discussed installation of the cameras at the Norvin Green North trail off Otterhole Road, as well as at the Environmental Boardwalk. The Commission suggested that locks be purchased to securely attach the cameras. The cost of the cameras is \$160. and the locks are approximately \$30. The Commission Secretary advised that she will look into whether there could be a reimbursement for the cameras, although there weren't any funds allocated in the budget that the Commission receives from the Township.

Volunteer Night – April 19, 2017 – The Commission concurred that a nomination should be made for Bob Jonas for Volunteer of the Year. The Commission had nominated him in prior years for all the time and effort he dedicates to maintaining the trails, surveilling the Environmental Boardwalk, and alerting the Commission to environmental issues in the Township. Commissioner Dave Ofshinsky volunteered to provide a brief presentation about the Environmental Commission at Volunteer Night. The Secretary advised that she would provide a list of some of the Commission's accomplishments to him.

MINUTES

The minutes from the February 6, 2017 regular meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were approved on a **motion** by Douglas Ott and a **second** by Jim Rogers.

The following items were reviewed by the Commission:

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. Highlands Preservation Area Exemption Determination – Exemption #11, received from the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council, dated February 7, 2017, regarding the PSE&G Radio System Upgrades on the Morsetown Road Tower 61/4 BB-NY, Block 4701; Lots 22 & 43, finding the application consistent with the goals and purposes of the Highlands Act and the Highlands Regional Master Plan. PSE&G proposes to place radio equipment on a steel platform located under the existing transmission tower, place whip antennas on the transmission tower, and place a natural gas generator on a concrete pad adjacent to the existing gravel access road, with a cable bridge, underground utilities, a transfer switch and chain link fence with a swing gate.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. No Further Action notification from the NJDEP, dated January 30, 2017, regarding 15 Charcoal Road, Block 15301; Lot 11, related to the removal of a 550 gallon #2 heating oil underground storage tank.

2. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification, dated February 14, 2017, NJDEP Case Number 17-02-13-1658-49 with regard to 8 Mayfair Road, Block 12208; Lot 25 and the removal of a leaking 275 gal #2 HO above ground storage tank; clean-up is pending.

3. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification, dated February 16, 2017, NJDEP Case Number 17-02-15-1626-08 with regard to 163 Wooley Road, Block 9901; Lot 31, and the removal of a 275 gal #2 HO underground storage tank; clean-up is pending.

4. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification, dated February 21, 2017, NJDEP Case Number 17-02-20-0913-25, with regard to 264 Marshall Hill Road, Block 6002; Lot 27, advising of a "Kerey Trecker" machine leaking a water soluble oil onto concrete. A moat was created to contain the oil spill and the substance was pumped back into the machine.

5. Notification of a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #10A and Transition Area Letter of Exemption application, dated February 15, 2017, submitted to the NJDEP by PK Environmental for Thomas Berry, Snake Den Road, Block 11101; Lot 23.03, with regard to placement of 1,530 s.f. of

pavement or other impervious surface (gravel) across wetlands for installation of a driveway to access a tree house.

6. No Further Action notification from the NJDEP, dated February 22, 2017, regarding 35 Lake Park Terrace, Block 4201; Lot 19, related to the removal of a 275 gallon #2 heating oil above ground storage tank.

7. Notification from Practical Environmental Solutions, dated February 17, 2017, to HJK Cleaners, 1590 Union Valley Road, Block 6401; Lot 1 regarding an investigation into groundwater contamination at the Belchers Run site located at 1592 Union Valley Road, NJDEP Preferred Identification #741599, advising that elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in the groundwater, and requesting to perform a vapor intrusion evaluation at the cleaner's site. The evaluation will include collection of samples of the soil gas beneath the slab and indoor air for analysis of VOCs.

8. Correspondence received from Synergy Environmental, dated February 27, 2017, requesting water supply information for the Township's current and potential groundwater use to satisfy the NJDEP requirements with regard to a CEA and an environmental investigation for 2 Lakeside Drive (Lakeside Amoco), NJDEP PI#012599, Block 3509; Lot 16.

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received/Sent

1. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District correspondence, dated January 11, 2017, regarding the re-certification until November 4, 2018 of the revised soil erosion and sediment

control plan for Inserra-Shop Rite Expansion – the revised limit of disturbance for the rear addition, Marshall Hill Road, Block 6303; Lots 15 & 16.

2. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District correspondence, dated January 26, 2017, regarding the re-certification until July 1, 2020 of the revised soil erosion and sediment control plan for Chelsea at Bald Eagle 2-Story Addition: revised per NJDEP Approval and Notes, located at 187 Cahill Cross Road, Block 5310; Lot 1.

3. Volunteer of the Year program and Volunteer Organizations Presentations - April 19, 2017.

4. ANJEC – 2017 Open Space Stewardship Grants – Applications due April 7, 2017.

5. Township of West Milford Amended Noise Ordinance–Ord 2017-001, introduced Feb. 1, 2017.

6. NY-NJ Trail Conference – Updated Publication Order Form.

7. Borough of Bloomingdale – Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Affordable Housing Zone – Meer Tract - Public Hearing March 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm – Bloomingdale Municipal Building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the March 6, 2017 meeting was **adjourned** at **8:25 p.m.** on a **motion** by Tom Tamayne and Douglas Ott.

Approved: April 3, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary