

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

MARCH 7, 2011

The regular meeting of March 7, 2011 of the Environmental Commission of the Township of West Milford was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Chairman Stephen Sangle, following the reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Andrew Abdul, Gillian Hemstead, Gary Oppenheimer, Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Alternates, Lucas Slott, and Chairman Stephen Sangle.
Absent: Timothy Metcalf, Maryellen Gabay.

Chairman Sangle requested Luke Slott to sit in for absent Commissioner Tim Metcalf.

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS

JOSEPH R. VENGEN

Bulk Variance Zb-01-11-01

Block 16802; Lot 8

137 Doremus Road, R-4 Zone

Seeking: Bulk Variance approval for an addition to an existing residence.

The Commission reviewed the application for the proposed location, impervious cover, and whether a Highland's approval was needed. Following discussion, the Commission advised that the Board of Adjustment should require the applicant to comply with any Highland's approval, if necessary.

TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS – None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

604(b) OWTS Grant, the 2004 Greenwood Lake 319H Grant and 2007 Stormwater Implementation 319H Grant: Chairman Sangle reported that these projects were on hold due to the weather conditions, but should continue this Spring.

Streetscape Grant: There was nothing new to report at this time.

Recreational Trails Signage Grant (NJDEP): Chairman Sangle reported that there were some delays on this project due to certificates of insurance that were required regarding the location of one of the kiosks, but that the project should be moving forward.

2010 Smart Growth Planning Grant - Trails Master Plan (ANJEC): Doug Ott reported that he, Bob Jonas, Don Weisse, Luke Slott and Tom Tamayne has a meeting to review trails to be included in the trails plan. He noted that the hired consultant, George White, who is located two hours from West Milford, has difficulty getting here for meetings, but has requested an inventory of trails that may be on file. The Commission discussed the numerous trails that exist in the Township, but were not certain that they are documented trails. The Commission will provide whatever information it has for this project.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Lakes Committee: Andy Abdul distributed minutes from the prior month's Lakes Committee meeting and advised that the main topic had been a review of a draft water fowl feeding ordinance. He reported that the Lower Mt. Glen Lakes Dam repair is moving along, but that work on the Upper Mt. Glen Lakes Dam cannot progress because access has not been granted from the owner of the property where the dam is located. Mr. Abdul also reported that the Lakes Committee will have a presentation by a representative from Franklin at their next meeting who will discuss a modern septic system that is available, and the EC has been invited to attend.

Open Space Subcommittee: Doug Ott reported that a meeting is planned with the EC Open Space subcommittee, Kevin Boyle, Keith Knudsen, and Dorrie Fox on March 16, 2011 at Town Hall.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne provided an updated list on contaminated sites and well logs to the EC via email. He reported that he will attempt to meet with the Health Officer,

William Wallace, each month to review the information and to get updates on existing sites. Chairman Sangle requested that any properties that appear to have environmental issues should be referred to Tom Tamayne up to a week prior to the EC meeting so that he can discuss these issues with the Health Officer and report back to the Commission. Gillian Hemstead inquired whether specifics on the contamination and/or remediation were available, and Mr. Tamayne responded that the information is available on the NJDEP website and through the Health Dept., but the items that had been closed were more difficult to get information on. The Commission briefly discussed the Adelo property on Greenwood Lake Turnpike and the proposed treatment works application. Renee Alessio was present at the meeting and advised that she has access to the Passaic County Health records through her employment, and that an OPRA request could be made for information on specific contaminated sites in West Milford. She also advised that the County has an environmental specialist on staff at all times to address any environmental issues.

Green Team – Sustainable Jersey: Renee Alessio reported that the last Green Team meeting took place in Sparta where the representatives from Sustainable Jersey held an information session. Tom Tamayne was also present at the meeting and noted that it was very informative. Ms. Alessio advised that she is gradually entering information into the portal for Sustainable Jersey. She was in contact with the Township Administrator and was advised that the Energy Audit Report is in progress and will soon be made available. Ms. Alessio noted that attaching documents into the portal were giving her some difficulty due to the digital size of some of the documents. Gary Oppenheimer advised that he will assist her. She hopes to have the all the documents completed and submitted by April, adding that the newspapers and others have been very helpful. Of the remaining items, she was still in need of an updated Natural Resource Inventory and the Energy Audit Report. Ms. Alessio commented that she was surprised that Paterson was getting the Sustainability Certification before West Milford, but Gillian Hemstead noted that many of the requirements were geared towards more urban communities. Doug Ott reported that Tim Metcalf had been on the Energy Committee several years ago, and an energy audit was completed by Honeywell, at their cost, but the information was disregarded and the Township chose another company for an audit. Ultimately nothing ever resulted with regard to energy upgrades, etc. at township owned buildings. Tom Tamayne noted that there is an attempt to complete a spreadsheet on the list of Township vehicles, but all the information has been difficult to obtain. Chairman Sangle directed the Secretary to send a memo to the Township Administrator, with a copy to the Public Works Director, requesting a copy of the vehicle list inventory as soon as possible.

Beaver Dam at Environmental Boardwalk: Nothing new to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Orange & Rockland – Clean Power Choice Program: Chairman Sangle contacted Orange and Rockland to inquire about the Clean Power Choice program and was advised that the least expensive company (Con Edison) was no longer available to West Milford residents. An alternate program, Energy Plus, provided a 5% rebate if a customer stays with the company for one year, with the kilowatt hour rate at 09.951 cents per hour, with a fixed rate also available throughout the year based on usage. He noted that some of the companies charge a service fee if a customer cancels the program before the end of a year. He also noted that natural gas may be purchased through the Clean Power Source Program. Tom Tamayne advised that his monthly bill was cut in half after he enrolled in the program. He also uses Wind Power of NJ and has purchased blocks of wind power shares. Gillian Hemstead commented on the compact fluorescent bulbs versus LED bulbs, and noted that the energy efficient LED bulbs are more expensive, but last at least 5 years and the energy use is minimal, adding that the bulbs are available in different colors. Tom Tamayne commented that a user will not get the same warmth rating as an incandescent bulb. The Commission discussed the options of LED lighting. Gary Oppenheimer suggested that the country of origin be noted prior to purchasing LED lighting, as many are produced overseas, especially for those who strive to purchase goods made in the USA.

Deer Proof Fencing – Luke Slott reported that he attended an ANJEC Workshop and met one of the representatives from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation who has offered to do a presentation for the Commission on Deer Proof Fencing and discuss the effects deer have on healthy forest. Luke Slott also reported on other topics discussed at the ANJEC Workshop, including the NJDEP Environmental Crimes Hotline. Chairman Sangle suggested that the EC website should direct anyone suspecting an environmental crime to file it on the NJDEP website.

Water Testing of Critical West Milford Waterways – The Commission discussed reviving the former water sampling and environmental assessments of various streams and creeks in West Milford, to be made by accessing the water bodies with canoes. Gillian Hemstead commented that there may be funds available to renew this project with the remaining grant monies from the 319h projects. Dr. Fred Lubnow had reported that there will be funds remaining, but he should be apprised of this project as he would have to get approval from the NJDEP.

Environmental Commission Website – The Commission discussed various updates and enhancements to the EC website. Tom Tamayne suggested that digital mapping be made available for users, and another Commissioner noted that the Township had a GIS Specialist for many years who created the data and maps that exist. It was noted that access and use of this information would have to be granted through the Township Administrator. Mr. Ott advised that ANJEC has numerous educational documents available in PDF format that can be posted on the EC website that will fulfill part of the educational component. A Website Subcommittee was formed with Gillian Hemstead, Tom Tamayne and Luke Slott. They were charged with a review of the website and will provide their suggestions to the Commission at the next meeting. The Secretary will work with the Network Administrator to get the information updated following the assessment.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Update: Gary Oppenheimer reported that Michael Lennon of TGP had contacted him and they reviewed the property across from the Wallisch house for any additional mature trees that could be saved during the construction of the pipeline. He commented that the TGP representatives are making a concerted effort to avoid cutting down too many trees during the project.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the December 13, 2010 Regular Meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were reviewed and **unanimously approved** on a **motion** by Doug Ott and a **second** by Chairman Stephen Sangle.

The Following Documents Were Reviewed By The Environmental Commission And Filed:

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT

1. Notice of Technical Incompleteness, dated February 4, 2011, received from the NJDEP regarding an application for a Highlands Applicability Determination and Water Quality Management Plan Consistency Determination for Shoebox Storage, LLC, Michael VanderPloeg, Paul Street, Block 16005; Lot 16, regarding construction of a single family dwelling.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. Letter from Whitestone Associates dated February 21, 2011 advising of an intent to submit a Treatment Works Application (TWA) for 2019 Greenwood Lake Turnpike, Block 3603; Lot 7 for Adelo Corporation for the construction of an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system alteration.
2. Notice of Flood Hazard Area Determination dated February 11, 2011, received for Frank Schultz, 38 Setting Sun Trail, regarding a septic alteration, advising that a permit is not required.
3. Notice of an application being made by Jack Lipari, 42 Lone Pine Lane, Block 5306; Lot 4.02 for a Letter of Interpretation from the NJDEP.
4. Notice of submission by Kleinfelder, Hamilton, NJ, dated February 9, 2011, of a Required Receptor Evaluation Form and associated documents for Exxon Facility #32950, 1 Lakeside Road, Hewitt, NJ, NJDEP Case #09-07-20-1606-22 with regard to prior site contamination.
5. Notice of submission by SAIC, Exton, PA, dated February 28, 2011, of a Required Receptor Evaluation Form and associated documents for Chevron Facility, 1457 Union Valley Road, Block 7601; Lot 2, West Milford, NJ, NJ DEP Case #85-05-2004-00 with regard to site contamination.
6. Notice from the NJDEP, dated February 7, 2011, to the City of Newark regarding Hank's Pond Dam, NJ File # 22-242, advising of various concerns with regard to the permit application and final design documents and requesting revisions to the report by May 31, 2011.

7. Notice of submission by BETTS, Environmental Services, dated February 23, 2011, of a Required Initial Receptor Evaluation Form and associated documents for Fredericks Fuel & Heating Service, 225 Oak Ridge Road, Block 16102; Lot 29, Oak Ridge, NJ, NJ DEP Case #91-10-08-1457 with regard to site contamination.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notice from the Township Clerk regarding Volunteer Night on April 20, 2011. Nominations are being accepted for Volunteer of the Year and requests are being accepted for presentations by volunteer groups following the awards.
2. Notice from Rutgers, Office of Continuing Professional Education announcing the Spring 2011 Wetlands Training programs including Intro to Wetlands Delineation, Vegetation Identification North, Methodology for Delineating Wetlands, Hydrology of wetlands, and Pond Design, Management and Maintenance.
3. Notice from ANJEC announcing a program entitled Assessing Development Impacts – considering State Regulations in Plan Review, March 30, 2011, 7pm – 9pm Clifton City Hall, Clifton, NJ sponsored by the Clifton Environmental Commission.
4. Notice from the Township Administrator advising that prior to all Township Board, Committee and Commission meetings, notice should be made about the location of the fire exits.
5. Letter from Maser Consulting, Clinton, NJ, dated February 24, 2011, regarding the Braemar at West Milford, LLC subdivision, transmitting the Aquifer Test Plan Addendum to the previously submitted plan dated November 2010, for Block 10001; Lots 14, 19, 20, 23, Wooley Road.
6. Letter from Kevin Boyle, Township Administrator, dated March 1, 2011, transmitting the Quarterly Report to ANJEC for the 2010 Smart Growth Planning Grant for a Trails Master Plan.
7. Notice dated February 25, 2011 regarding eligibility for the 2011 Small Grants Program from the NJ Highlands Coalition for non-profit organizations.
8. Notice from the Highlands Council dated February 22, 2011, advising of the adoption of a resolution approving the Township's Petition for Plan Conformance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the meeting was **adjourned** at 9:10 p.m. on a **motion** by Doug Ott and a **second** by Gillian Hemstead.

Approved: June 6, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary