

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

April 2, 2018

The April 2, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:10 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Dalton, David Ofshinsky, Chairman Stephen Sangle, Clinton Smith (Alt #1), Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor (Alt #2), Don Weise.

Absent: Douglas Ott, James Rogers

Chairman Stephen Sangle requested Clinton Smith and Doug Trainor to sit in for Doug Ott and Jim Rogers and advised that there was a quorum for this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS – Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission – Jonathan Brett, a member of the Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission, was present to discuss the current condition of Belcher's Creek and the potential project to get the site cleared of overgrowth and debris. He noted that he resides at the townhouses along Belcher's Creek near Brown's Point and has seen the deterioration of the Creek each year, presenting a safety hazard for boaters as well as water quality issues. Chairman Sangle advised that the Commission has some equipment that enables them to test to determine if there are issues that need to be addressed by the Health Dept. and the NJDEP. He reported on the various testing samples that have been taken along Belchers Creek sites including Bald Eagle Village, Crescent Park, Pinecliff Lake and Brown's Point. Mr. Brett noted that some residents and businesses have raised the possibility of de-silting, but the DEP needs to approve this through permits. This matter will continue to be discussed with the DEP representatives to determine the best course of action. Mr. Brett further noted that he would bring the silt issue to the attention of Passaic County since much of the silt is coming from stormwater run-off from the County roads. Commissioner Clint Smith observed that there were 47 county drains going around Greenwood Lake, and he suggested that Freeholder Terry Duffy should be contacted. Chairman Sangle advised that there were sedimentation basins installed through a grant that the Commission and Township obtained years ago, but they will not work unless they are cleaned out periodically. Mr. Brett noted that Montclair State University did testing at the mouth of Belchers Creek and the results indicated that the fecal coliform was high. Chairman Sangle observed that the weather was not conducive for testing today, but future testing can be conducted in areas that had high readings. He noted that the Environmental Commission can only test for nitrates and phosphates, and if they are high, that usually indicates higher fecal coliform levels will be present. He further noted that if the soil is contaminated with fecal coliform, it may be difficult to get rid of the soil during a de-silting process. Commissioners Tom Tamayne and Dave Ofshinsky commented that the fecal coliform should be present in the water, and that it shouldn't be present for too long in the soil. Mr. Smith noted that with less houses being built and Suez taking over the MUA, the conditions may improve, and he observed that GWL is much clearer now that it was 25 years ago.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of a hiking trail along Belchers Creek, and Commissioner Tim Dalton noted that the trails are in the conceptual phases, and continuous runs of trails would not be possible since some of the development goes to the water's edge. He assessed the area and noted that improvements for better access and parking is needed for trails and the land along the creek would have to be thoroughly investigated. Commissioner Don Weise observed that if there is a desire to establish a trail on the public property and there is parking available, a grant could be obtained to cover the cost of a trail builder professional to develop a plan. Mr. Smith suggested that the project should be kept simple for now, with removal of the trees and brush as the first order of business, and eventually a possible launch for boats and kayaks (but not motor boats.) He suggested that the Township DPW might be approached to help with brush clearing and Tim Dalton concurred. The focus will be to improve the site and hopefully additional assistance might be

available from other sources. Chairman Sangle noted that access around Pinecliff Lake would not be possible due to the presence of Stowaway Park. With regard to stocking the creek for fishing, the Commission thought that this was possibility, and Chairman Sangle observed that, in the past, the Pinecliff Lake Association had personally funded the stocking of their lake.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

Courtesy Review:

**WEST MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL FIELDHOUSE REPLACEMENT
WEST MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE REPLACEMENT
MACOPIN MIDDLE SCHOOL GREENHOUSE REPLACEMENT**

The Commission reviewed the plans submitted by the architect for replacing the existing greenhouses and fieldhouse at Macopin Middle School and the High School. Following review, the Commission found no environmental issues with the proposals but noted that one of the architectural drawings was mislabeled.

GREEN MEADOW ORGANICS LLC

Preliminary and Final Site Plan/Conditional Use #PB-03-18-04

Block 4601; Lots 17 & 21

960 Burnt Meadow Road; LMI Zone

Seeking: Preliminary & Final Site Plan and Conditional Use Approval from the Planning Board for an expansion of an existing compost and recycling facility to include processing of tree parts, stumps, leaves, grass and food wastes into high end compost, and processing concrete into recycled concrete aggregate, with no additional impervious surfaces proposed.

The Commission reviewed the plans submitted for the above Panning Board application for Green Meadow Organics LLC and made the following comments:

- The Commission inquired how drainage from stormwater run-off will be addressed by the applicant.
- The Commission inquired if the run-off from the site will affect nearby streams and rivers, which drain into the reservoirs.
- The Commission inquired about the type of fire suppression measures that the applicant will take to address or prevent any fires that may result from combustion of the materials stored on the site.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

NJDEP NNL \$620,197.00 Reforestation Grant Project: Tim Dalton reported that he was waiting for a response from the contractor on the NJDEP Forestry report prior to the final inspection. He noted that Ron Farr has been attempting to contact them also. The Secretary was requested to send them correspondence via certified mail, return receipt, in an attempt to get clarification on the issues that were raised by the NJDEP by April 16, 2018 prior to the final inspection in April.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Environmental Contamination Issues: Commissioner Dave Ofshinsky discussed the ongoing sewer/septic issues at Bald Eagle Village and the recent work that has occurred at the system's disposal fields. Mr. Ofshinsky noted that the issues are arising as a result of the fields not being constructed properly, but measures are being taken to address the problems with the fields.

Shade Tree Committee / Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: Tim Dalton reported that the Community Forestry Management Plan Annual Accomplishment Report for the Township requires the Mayor's signature, but is basically ready to send to the State.

Lakes Committee/Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: See above under presentations.

Open Space Committee: Don Weise reported that he prepared a draft grant application for the Norvin Green North Trails Improvement Project under the Open Space and Stewardship Grant that is being offered by ANJEC. He noted that there are three maps that need revising, but the grant is basically ready for submission. Mr. Weise further advised the Commission that he would assist with any trails related grants that become available so that the NY/NJ Trail Conference can complete the connections between the trails at the Norvin Green North site. Doug Trainor commented that the Passaic River Coalition has funds for the Emerald Forest trails, and wondered whether some of their funds could be re-assigned to the Norvin Green trails.

Belchers Creek Testing Project: The Commission concurred that Long Pond Ironworks should be included in the phosphate and nitrate testing for the Belcher's Creek Testing project. Commissioner Tom Tamayne noted that he has a secchi disk instrument that can be used to test for turbidity.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee-Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification: Commissioner Tim Dalton advised that he had spoken with a woman from Ringwood who is assisting with forming a Green Team, and he also met with the Green Team at the High School. Commissioner Don Weise reported that Bergen County has a consortium of Green Teams and they offer information and guidelines so other teams can attain points more efficiently for the Sustainable Jersey program.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

The Commission discussed the Autumn Lights Festival and whether the Township would hold the event this year with the proposed closing of the bridge on Marshall Hill. The Commission would be participating again this year, along with other local environmental groups.

MINUTES

The minutes from the February 5, 2018 regular meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were **approved** on a **motion** by Tim Dalton with a **second** by Dave Ofshinsky.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: *The following correspondence items were reviewed by the Commission:*

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. Highlands Exemption #4 received from the NJDEP, dated March 2, 2018, regarding the Greenwood Lake Airport Proposed Runway Safety Improvements at 126 Airport Road, Block 6002; Lots 14 & 31, for lighting, windcone, and associated electrical upgrades, with no new impervious proposed. Water Quality Management Plan was not addressed since no new wastewater will be generated as part of this project.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. NJDEP No Further Action correspondence, dated March 2, 2018, received for the Estate of Judy Ferrell, Block 3608; Lot 15, 26 Ivy Place, regarding remediation following the removal of one 550 gallon #2 H.O. UST.

2. Suspected Hazardous Spill notification received from the NJDEP dated March 10, 2018 regarding 10 Pilot Ave., Block 7508; Lot 20, for a #2 H.O. UST. The neighbor at 5 Pilot Ave. reported oil odor in her private well.

3. Copy of an application for a Wetlands Delineation Report and Transition Area Buffer Averaging submitted to the NJDEP received from D'Amico Engineering LLC, dated March 6, 2018 regarding Block 16901; Lot 4, Canistear Road, for a proposed single family dwelling and septic system.

4. NJDEP – Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation Line Verification dated March 9, 2018 received for Kevin Downes – Green Meadow Organics regarding Block 4601; Lots 17 & 21, 960 Burnt Meadow Road for proposed mulching compost facility.
5. Copy of correspondence dated March 22, 2018 from Hydrotechnology Consultants regarding 19 Ringwood Lane, Block 3604; Lot 5, 21 Ringwood Lane, Block 3604; Lot 4, and 27 Ringwood Lane, Block 3604; Lot 2 with respect to the ground water contamination investigation at 2019 Greenwood Lake Tpk., for property owner Adelo Corporation. The referenced homeowners have not responded to requests for collection of samples from the respective potable wells; the correspondence requests cooperation with regard to the testing, and advises that the property owner of 2019 Greenwood Lake Tpk is entitled to pursue court ordered access to determine if unacceptable levels of COC's are present in the groundwater of the properties.

Miscellaneous

1. Correspondence from the West Milford Historic Preservation Commission, dated February 20, 2018, acknowledging support for the Friends of Wallisch Homestead regarding submission of a Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant application.
2. HEPSCD Re-Certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated February 9, 2018, received for Vitale West Brook SFD, Block 5010; Lot 1, 1060 Westbrook Road; certification is valid through March 26, 2021.
3. Notification from the Passaic County Planning Board, dated February 5, 2018, advising that a site plan review was conducted for LSK Associates LLC, 100 Oak Ridge Road, Block 16005; Lot 13. Approval has been withheld pending receipt of: an updated survey, property and deed description, elevation profiles for the driveway, driveway striping compliance, parking allotment explanation, ROW width for Oak Ridge Road, positive drainage plan with no stormwater runoff into the county ROW, provide shade trees in mulch area, local and state approval for septic system, submission of corridor enhancement fee of \$1,927.00.
4. ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Project Grants – Deadline April 13, 2018

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the April 2, 2018 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:15 p.m. on a **motion** by Chairman Stephen Sangle and a second by David Ofshinsky.

Approved: July 2, 2018

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary