

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

April 3, 2017

The April 3, 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, Clinton Smith, Thomas Tamayne, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: Don Weise

Also Present: Ron Farr, Kathleen Fitzgerald.

Chairman Sangle advised that there was a quorum for this meeting.

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 first supply of the trees for this project had been delivered, and approximately 212 have been planted by the landscape contractor at the PAL Building and Hillcrest. He has been checking the tree planting locations to confirm that the packing wires were removed from the trees, and noted that deer wrap has also been installed. He advised that another delivery is scheduled for the following Wednesday which will include trees for Camp Hope, KOA, and Bubbling Springs, and the macadam at one of the Bubbling Springs parking lots has been removed to accommodate the trees planned for that location. Mr. Farr reported that he has observed the planting procedures and the contractor has been very systematic with the work that has been done so far, including addressing some issues with mud run-off that occurred. Mr. Farr advised that Passaic County notified him that they will be taking over the Sand Cap site since the lease with the Township expired, and the fields will be moved, so there will be no trees planted at that location. He noted, however, that Camp Hope purchased additional property that may accommodate additional trees if they clear out the brush from the rear of the site.

Mr. Farr reported that he will contact the Board of Education regarding the tree plantings at the various school sites. When he initially met with the Business Administrator, they agreed to the plantings that were included in the plans, but he needs to re-confirm the project with them. He will address this once the first phase of the tree planting is completed. Commissioner Doug Ott confirmed that the New Library trees are to be installed in May. Chairman Sangle suggested using email as a paper trail for contacts and correspondence. Mr. Farr commented that he hoped the rainy weather would continue, unlike last year's dry weather conditions. The Commission Secretary requested that Mr. Farr send photos to her for the grant file as documentation of the work that has been completed. She will also provide them to the newspapers with a press release on the project.

2017 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant: Commissioner Tim Dalton provided an update regarding the recently submitted ANJEC grant for the Norvin Green North Trails Improvement Project. He advised that there were some concerns expressed to him at an ANJEC conference about increased ATV use on the trails if they become improved. Don Weise contacted them to address these concerns, so the grant application should be under consideration.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

ON GOING BUSINESS

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. The Secretary confirmed with the NJDEP that we have satisfied all the requirements for Approved Status for 2016, but they have not updated their website at the present time to reflect this. Tim Dalton advised that he would be attending additional classes for more CEU's; it was noted that the Commission has sufficient credits for the current (2017) year.

Lakes Committee: No report at this time.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Commissioner Clinton Smith reported that Greenwood Lake has re-filled from the drawdown that took place over the winter. The tentative date for the "stump buster" is June 18, 2017. Commissioner Tom Tamayne inquired if this will interfere with the boaters, and Mr. Smith responded that it shouldn't since the saw will remove the stumps with an underwater saw. An assessment of the site is scheduled for April 14-15 by the contractor. Mr. Smith reported that the boat races will take place, but he was not sure of the dates. He also reported that the weeds will be addressed. Mr. Tamayne advised that the boat races are scheduled for June 17 & 18 which would interfere with the stump removal project, and suggested that the contractor be advised. Mr. Smith reported on state legislation that is being proposed to conduct an inventory of the lake water, to basically assess where it is going and how much there is.

The Commission discussed the difference between de-silting and dredging, and Chairman Sangle advised that a de-silting process removes what settles into a lake bed, but it does not remove indigenous material. Mr. Smith noted that the process would be a multimillion dollar project, and the Commission observed that one of the best companies for this was Spinelli in West Milford. He suggested that the New Jersey end of Greenwood Lake might be interested in a de-silting project, but a program needs to be developed to move forward with this type of project. Chairman Sangle advised that he investigated this for the lake he lives on, Pinecliff Lake, and the largest obstacle was locating a source to take the silt. Chairman Sangle commented about projects that he was involved with in Secaucus when the base was constructed for the Meadowlands complex, and reviewed the process for the Commission. Mr. Tamayne inquired about copper sulfate that is used to treat weeds that may have accumulated on the lake bottom, and noted that aluminum boats often turn black from the weed treatments. Chairman Sangle concurred that copper sulfate could create obstacles, so it needs to be determined what was used for weed control. He noted that he used a product in Pinecliff Lake consisting of a chelate which killed the weeds, but settled to the bottom and was deposited in the silt. He suggested that a chemical analysis of the silt at the bottom with core samples would be the first step. Mr. Tamayne noted that Kampfe Lake in Bloomingdale was successful with a de-silting project, and Chairman Sangle remarked that a major influence was economics, with trucking costs being the most expensive. The silt must be removed from point A and taken to point B, and it must be determined whether it is slurry or sludge, adding that the location of the clay line needs to be established to avoid compromising the lake bottom. He suggested that the GWL Commission should have the type of weed treatment and dates of treatment in their files, noting that he had to get a license to do weed treatment on Pinecliff Lake. Jim Rogers requested information on the state legislation that is being considered so that it can be researched. Tim Dalton commented that in a portion of Upper Greenwood Lake some of the silt was removed and it was trucked to a farm across from Waywayanda State Park. Mr. Smith requested that the Commission keep this matter on the agenda for further discussion.

Open Space Committee: Nothing new to report at this time.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne had received no updates and referred to the NJDEP items listed on the agenda.

Belchers Creek Testing Project: Jim Rogers reported that the Belchers Creek is full and flowing. Chairman Sangle observed that the numbers for phosphate and nitrogen should be lower than they were last fall. He requested the Secretary to send an email to Don Weise to request that he take samples near Pinecliff Lake Dam prior to the next meeting. Tim Dalton advised that he is

attempting to calibrate the equipment so that accurate readings can be accomplished. The Commissioners involved with the Belchers Creek testing scheduled a meeting for 6:30 pm on May 1 prior to the regular Environmental Commission meeting to conduct the tests on the samples collected. Kathleen Fitzgerald, Watershed Ambassador, advised that she conducted sampling at three sites along Belchers Creek. She agreed to assist the Commission with further sampling and would get sample vials from Tim Dalton who has possession of the nitrogen and phosphate testing equipment and supplies. Jim Rogers reminded the test team to rinse the vials out with distilled water before collecting the sample.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee - Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification – Tim Dalton, Jim Rogers and Kathleen Fitzgerald met recently to review the action items for the Sustainable Jersey re-certification program. Mr. Dalton reached out to several people to coordinate information with the schools and scouts, as well as contacting the Cable TV Committee. The local cable channel will be producing a series of programs on the trails in the Township, and some of the scouts will be involved in filming of the trails. He was advised that there is equipment available for creating the videos, and they are planning to use the project for points with Sustainable Jersey. Mr. Dalton also spoke to David Watson Hallowell regarding the plans to enlarge the community garden at the Wallisch Farmstead. Mr. Rogers reviewed some of the newer actions added to the SJ program, including arts and creative culture in the community, and he advised that he planned to create an inventory of all of the cultural activities and sites in the community. Mr. Dalton noted that community mapping has been undertaken by several towns.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Environmental Commission Alternate #2 – Kathleen Fitzgerald indicated her interest in serving on the Commission in the Alternate #2 position. She completed the Citizen’s Leadership Form for submission to the Township Clerk’s Office for the Mayor to consider appointing her.

ANJEC Workshop – Jim Rogers, Tim Dalton and Clint Smith reviewed some of the information from the recent ANJEC conference for environmental commissions which they attended. Mr. Dalton commented that he was interested in becoming more involved with stormwater management. Chairman Sangle advised that he was part of a stormwater management team in West Milford in his position as chairman of the Commission. He requested the Secretary to send him the information on the stormwater team that he was appointed to.

Security Cameras and Trails Update - Chairman Steve Sangle reported that he purchased locks for the security cameras that will be placed by the Environmental Boardwalk on Maple Road (to detect beaver activity) and one by the Norvin Green South Trail (to detect illegal garbage dumping). Tom Tamayne reported that a contractor recently spread masonry material all over the parking lot, in addition to the debris that has been previously dumped at this location. He wondered who would give permission for installation of the cameras and who the Commission would report the information to. The Commission concurred that it was best to install the cameras and decide how to proceed if there is video of a valid offender.

Volunteer Night – April 19, 2017 – Commissioner Dave Ofshinsky offered to provide a short presentation about the Environmental Commission, reporting on some of the more recent projects, as well as past endeavors. This presentation has served as the Commission’s annual report to the governing body. The Secretary will provide Mr. Ofshinsky with a list of grants, projects, and other activities of the Commission that he may reference.

MINUTES

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

The following items were reviewed by the Commission:

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence – None.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. NJDEP Freshwater Wetlands Transition Area Redevelopment Waiver authorization, dated March 15, 2017, received for the Nosenzo Pond Park, Block 9302; Lot 16, regarding the rehabilitation of an existing athletic field, construction of a playground area, wood fiber walkway, chain link fence, the removal of existing structures and pavements, and placement of a porous paved parking area in a disturbed area under a Freshwater Wetlands Transition Area Redevelopment Waiver.
2. Notification received from ADR Environmental, dated February 28, 2017, regarding 3520 Rt. 23, Block 16901; Lot 2, NJDEP SRP PI #90763 identifying 2 areas of concern with 2 550 Gal Leaded Gasoline UST removed in 2001. Site investigation confirmed soil contamination above the default impact to groundwater levels and groundwater contamination has been confirmed, with additional remedial investigations will be conducted.
3. No Further Action correspondence received from the NJDEP, dated March 21, 2017, regarding 58 Shadyside Road, Block 806; Lot 12, regarding the removal of a 550 gal UST.
4. Supplement to a Response Action Outcome received from the Environmental Group regarding ESCO Optics, 171 Oak Ridge Road, Block 15901; Lot 7, advising and correcting some administrative errors on the documents with regard to Communication Center # and ISRA Transaction notations.
5. Remedial Action Protectiveness/Biennial Certification Form for Groundwater received from Synergy Environmental, dated March 22, 2017, regarding Lakeside Amoco, 2 Lakeside Road, Block 3509; Lot 16, including Summary of Groundwater Sampling, Description of Maintenance and Evaluation for Wells, and Results of Well Search (The contaminate plume associated with the site is stable/decreasing and limited in extent. Previous groundwater modeling has shown that concentrations in groundwater are expected to migrate approximately 60 feet (25 feet past the property boundary).

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received/Sent – None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the April 3, 2017 meeting was **adjourned** at **9:05 p.m.** on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and Douglas Ott.

Approved: May 1, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary