

**Township of West Milford  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**June 4, 2018**

The June 4, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:02 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Tim Dalton, David Ofshinsky, Douglas Ott, Jim Rogers, Chairman Stephen Sangle, Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor (Alt #2).

Absent: Don Weise, Clint Smith (Alt #1).

Also Present: Ron Farr, Forester.

Chairman Stephen Sangle requested Doug Trainor to sit in for Commissioner Don Weise and advised that there was a quorum for this meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS** – None.

**GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW**

**NJDEP NNL \$620,197.00 Reforestation Grant Project:** Ron Farr was present to provide an update on the Reforestation Grant. He advised the Commission that he reviewed the invoices for the Fullerton trees and compared them with the trees that the NJDEP Forestry Division had approved, and he determined that there were 101 trees that did not qualify for payment by the State. Chairman Sangle inquired about the maintenance of the trees and the survival rate, and Mr. Farr noted that the survival rate must be 92% not 98%. He further reported that 26 trees at the Apple Acres site were missing according to the NJDEP, but he felt that these were planted up on the hill and will confirm that with a site visit. Mr. Farr expressed his recommendation for payment of the trees with the maintenance fees to be held until the trees receive final approval from the NJDEP at the end of the grant period. With regard to the former CYO field, he reported that there were trees that were removed during construction for a new recreation field at the site and also during demolition of one of the obsolete structures. He further noted that he discussed the trees that still needed the baskets removed with Rosa Yoo from the NJDEP.

Chairman Sangle advised that Mr. Farr should arrange to have a meeting with Commissioner Tim Dalton, Ellen Mageean, Township Treasurer, and the Township Administrator to review all the details of the grant and the payment amounts that are to be received and paid. Mr. Farr stated that he would speak to Fullerton and try to negotiate a price on the apple trees since the State will not cover them and they were not the caliper that was stated on the Fullerton invoice. He will contact the Township Treasurer to schedule a meeting. Upon completion of his report, Mr. Farr left the meeting.

**ANJEC 2018 OSS Grant – Norvin Green North Trails Improvement Project:** Chairman Sangle advised the Commission that Commissioner Don Weise was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but he reported via email that the 2018 ANJEC OSS Grant was not approved for the Norvin Green North Trails Improvement Project. He further advised that he would be contacting the Highlands Council for possible funding for the project. He reported that representatives from the Trail Conference, Jorba and the Economic Development Commission met to discuss trail use in West Milford, and he noted that the invasive species identification and removal project may qualify for a grant with the State.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

### **RYAN MALONEY**

#### **Bulk Variance ZB-11-17-16**

Block 15201; Lot 7

69 Rabbit Run Drive; R-4 Zone

**Seeking:** Bulk Variance approval for side yard setback where 50' is required, 7.6' exists, and 10' is proposed, and rear yard setback where 50' is required, 66.4' exists, and 2.1' is proposed for the construction of a one story detached garage/barn.

The Commission reviewed the application for a bulk variance for the construction of a detached garage/barn. The Commission noted that a dry well was in place or proposed, and determined that there were no apparent environmental concerns with the application.

## **ON GOING BUSINESS**

**Shade Tree Committee / Community Forestry Mgt. Plan:** Commissioner Tim Dalton confirmed that the Township was approved for 2017, and the training that he obtained, as well as the training that the Commission received from Ron Farr on roadside tree maintenance was sufficient to meet the requirements. He will be meeting with the Township Public Works Supervisor to determine who should receive Core Training with the Shade Tree Commission. He noted that in his conversation with the Supervisor, it was indicated that a team of DPW staff would be created for tree maintenance. Mr. Dalton reported that he attended Tree Farm Day at Stag Hill and he was informed about several grants that are available from the Shade Tree Commission, but our involvement in the Tree City USA program was essential. Funding is offered, but the Township would have to commit \$56,000., or \$2. per resident for tree maintenance. He will discuss this further with the Public Works Supervisor.

Mr. Dalton reported that the Township's Community Forestry Management Plan needs to be updated since it is a 5 year plan and our plan was adopted in 2014. He spoke to Ron Farr since he was the forester who prepared the plan initially. Revisions must be made to include the emerald ash borer that is now present in the Township.

Alt #2 Commissioner Doug Trainor commented on the Tree Farm Day and noted that attendees were made aware of chestnut trees that the blight had not affected, and observed that it was a good networking event. He further commented on the Emerald Forest site and expressed concern that there were teenagers who cut down a large tree in the forest; he is trying to monitor the site and report any issues to the Passaic River Coalition.

**Lakes Committee/Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission:** Clint Smith was not present to provide a report, but Tim Dalton advised that Mr. Smith is attempting to locate a "fish finder" to be used to detect the contour of the lake bottom at Greenwood Lake and Belchers Creek. He also noted that the newspapers reported that the State is considering funding \$500,000 for the cleanup of GWL.

**Open Space Committee:** Commissioner Don Weise was not present but provided a report via email. See above under ANJEC Grant.

**Environmental Contamination Issues:** Commissioner Tom Tamayne reported on several environmental contamination issues that were brought to his attention. He also noted that he witnessed an accident on Macopin Road and there was spillage on the road due to a broken transaxle.

**Belchers Creek Testing Project:** The Commission was unable to resume testing since the testing equipment is still in storage as a result of the flood damage repairs that are ongoing in the Planning Office.

**Green Team–Sustainability Committee:** The Commission Secretary confirmed that Tim Dalton and Tom Tamayne are registered for the Sustainable Jersey Summit on June 21, 2018.

### **NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS**

**Lake Management Planning** – Lake Integrity Study and Highlands Council – Chairman Sangle noted that this matter was referred to the Commission by the Mayor and we were requested to coordinate this project with the Highlands Council. He suggested that the Highlands Council may be able to assist with the Belchers Creek project. Doug Trainor and Jim Rogers volunteered to be the liaisons with the Lakes Committee, replacing Andy Abdul, who resigned last year. Chairman Sangle requested that they bring the information on the Lake Integrity Study to the Lakes Committee meeting so they can consider coordinating their efforts.

On another matter, Chairman Sangle suggested that WM77TV be contacted to arrange to have Rich Buchtmann give a presentation for local television so that all the residents will have an opportunity to get updated information on the Emerald Ash Borer and the Spotted Lanternfly affecting our trees.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes from the April and May 2018 regular meetings of the West Milford Environmental Commission were unavailable for review and approval at this meeting

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

#### **Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence**

1. Correspondence from the Highlands Council, dated May 4, 2018, regarding Randa Investments, Block 7601; Lot 2, Union Valley Road, with respect to an application to the Board of Adjustment for a Use Variance for the construction of 10 townhouses in the Village Commercial Zone. The Highlands Council advised that if the Use Variance is granted, a full Consistency Determination may be required. If the applicant applies for an Exemption and the project does not qualify, the applicant will need to apply for a Highlands Preservation Area Approval with Waiver from the NJDEP and Highlands Council, as well as a Brownfield Redevelopment Area designation.
2. Correspondence from the Highlands Council, dated May 4, 2018, regarding Randa Investments LLC, Block 7601; Lot 2, 1463 Union Valley Road, advising that the Council is closing the previously submitted application for a Highlands Redevelopment Area designation which had originally proposed a mixed use building for the site.

#### **NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence**

1. Notification from the NJDEP Division of Dam Safety & Flood Control, dated May 14, 2018, regarding the Upper Mount Glen Lake Dam, File # 22-101, advising the Mt. Glen Lakes Association that the dam safety report submitted for 2018 is incorrect, and further advising that the structure will be assigned a POOR condition assessment, with a dam safety permit application submitted by July 1, 2018.
2. Draft NJ Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES) Ground Water Renewal Permit Action correspondence received from the NJDEP, dated May 10, 2018, for Suez Water-West Milford regarding Bald Eagle Manor, Richmond and Morsetown Roads, Block 5501; Lot 22, Permit # NJ0081914, PI ID #47192, with respect to the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Sanitary system.
3. Application to the NJDEP for a Flood Hazard Area General Permit, dated May 1, 2018, received from MCB Engineering Associates LLC, regarding Antonucci Property, Cherry Ridge Road, Block 101; Lot 29, regarding the construction of a single family dwelling, septic system, well and driveway.

4. Notification dated May 18, 2018 regarding an application being submitted by MAP Engineering for a General Permit #24 related to the installation/repair of a subsurface disposal system in a Freshwater Wetlands Transition Area at 63 Greendale Drive, Block 16801; Lot 7.
5. Notification dated May 21, 2018 regarding an application being submitted by MAP Engineering for a General Permit #24 related to the installation/repair of a subsurface disposal system in a Freshwater Wetlands Transition Area at 63 Marshall Hill Road, Block 6303; Lot 9.
6. NJDEP notification of a hazardous substance discharge, dated May 23, 2018, received for Emil's Auto Shop, 2 Lakeside Rd., Block 3509; Lot 16 regarding the removal of a 550 gal UST, with clean up pending.
7. NJDEP notification of a hazardous substance discharge, dated May 26, 2018, received for 10 Pilot Ave., Block 7508; Lot 20 regarding the removal of a 550 gal UST, with clean up pending.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. ANJEC Report Spring 2018
2. HEPSCD certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated April 24, 2018, regarding the Bald Eagle Village Disposal Field Replacement on Beacon Hill Road, Block 7801; Lot 66.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the June 4, 2018 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:00 p.m. on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and a second by Dave Ofshinsky.

Approved: July 2, 2018

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary