

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2008

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Chairman Stephen Sangle followed by a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: Gillian Hemstead, Douglas Ott, Bernie Stapleton, Stephen Sangle, GIS Specialist Robert Sparkes.
Absent: Andrew Abdul, Timothy Metcalf, Irene Smith, Alternates MaryEllen Gabay, David Watson Hallowell.

APPLICATIONS – Rob Sparkes advised that there were no applications for the Commission’s review on the agenda.

TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS – There were no telecommunication applications for review.

PRESENTATION

Harvesting Rain Water – Carroll Sparkes

Rob Sparkes introduced Carroll Sparkes who prepared a presentation for the Commission on various means to harvest rainwater for daily use. Ms. Sparkes gave an overview of the public’s misconception about water availability and noted that she wanted to present some alternatives to help the public realize that water runoff is a resource to be used. Among suggested water responsible practices were using native plant materials in landscaping, use of permeable surfaces and natural products in paving and walkways, installing “green roofs”, rain gardens, redesigned drainage systems, and installing rain barrels for roof water runoff. The Commission members discussed the rain barrel’s capacity and uses. Ms. Sparkes was invited to attend the Autumn Lights Festival and help educate the public about harvesting the rainwater and was asked by a member to provide the information to the Commission so that they could disseminate it to the public. The members discussed various permeable and impervious surfaces and the positive and negative effects on the environment.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

West Milford Lakes-ANJEC Grant: Rob Sparkes advised that the final report and final reimbursement request had been submitted to ANJEC. They will not reimburse the township until there is proof that the consultants are paid. This is currently being processed. Mr. Sparkes talked to the Township Attorney about the West Milford Lake property and the unique characteristics of the site. The owner’s consultant contacted Mr. Sparkes for a copy of the consultant’s report, which he provided.

604(b) Owts Grant: Rob Sparkes reported that he had spoken with Pat Rector and the data collecting is continuing. He needs to contact the interim administrator regarding approval of the pesometer project.

2004 Greenwood Lake 319H Grant and 2007 Stormwater Implementation Grant 319H Grants: Rob Sparkes reported that three quarterly reports had been filed. Pat Rector suggested that Greenwood Lake Commission and Environmental Commission conduct a site visit where the 5 or 6 systems are going to be placed so the GWL Commission can be better informed about the project. The following Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 6:00 was the suggested time for the site visit. Mr. Sparkes also suggested a co-committee with a few members from both commissions to produce a brochure about the project. Bernie Stapleton and Chairman Sangle expressed interest in the site visit. The sites were by Wallisch Estates, Eisenhower, Greenbrook Estates, and Greenwood Lake. An email about the visit will be sent out. The Chairman asked for a map of the locations for the Commission members.

Streetscape Grant: Rob Sparkes reported the Design Criteria Subcommittee met and provided a report to the Planning Board. This report needs to be fine tuned and then sent to the Office of Smart

Growth. He reported that the surveying had been completed for the streetscape project. A basic conceptual plan should be submitted by the consultant. The Chairman asked for a presentation to be made to the Environmental Commission. Mr. Sparkes will look into having the consultants at a Commission meeting or will advise the Commission about a presentation date to the Planning Board and Township Council.

Urban Forestry Grants: Mr. Sparkes reported that the Passaic County Planning Board wants the Township to provide a letter to their finance department. A letter and resolution have been drafted, that will be adopted at the next Township Council meeting, outlining the sequence of events and request for reimbursement from the County for this grant.

ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant Program 2008: Mr. Sparkes had received no official word on this to date.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Community Forestry Plan: Mr. Sparkes advised that nothing new has occurred, but that the Commission is in a good position to move forward with this. He noted that the committee should reform in anticipation of the Regional Master Plan coming out; community forestry is included in the plan.

Energy Committee: Chairman Sangle reported that Tim Metcalf resigned from the Energy Committee due to frustration with the Township's failure to act on the recommendations of the Energy Committee and the Environmental Commission. The Commission members discussed the current energy crisis and escalating costs that are impacting the residents of the Township. Rob Sparkes advised that memorandums had been sent to the Township Council, most recently asking for a reply, to which there was no response. Doug Ott reviewed the events that led to the current situation with the Energy Committee. Bernie Stapleton volunteered to attend a Township Council meeting to inquire why there has been no action on the part of the Township to act on energy saving measures. The Commission members discussed the increase in taxes that will result and the effect on average homeowners, noting that the inaction is wasteful spending.

Lakes Committee: Irene Smith was not present; there was nothing new to report.

Wetland Mitigation Project: Ramapo College-Wallisich Estates Property. Rob Sparkes reported that he had spoken with George White and signage is the final phase that remains, and they are requesting suggestions for various signage. Rob Sparkes will contact Les Lynn on this. He invited members to go to the site for a visit.

Septic Maintenance: Gillian Hemstead reported that she has a draft of the ordinance which is largely based on the Sparta ordinance. She met with the Lakes Committee representatives and they insisted on inclusion of language to apply when a change of ownership occurs and the septic would be certified as functioning. She included the language, but needs to review it further. The suggested timeline will be two years from adoption of the ordinance for full implementation. She worked on the waiver language with relation to requiring pumping every six years, unless the house was not occupied or other extenuating circumstances exist. The result is requiring pumping every three years with three years of waivers allowed, for a maximum of six years. Ms. Hemstead made several other changes including a \$15.00 program fee and language regarding renewal not being granted unless proof of pumping or a waiver has been granted. She also advised that she had spoken to several realtors in town and they noted that mortgage lenders require certification of the septic in the purchase of a home. Rob Sparkes advised that he wants the ordinance draft to be provided to the Lakes Committee and the Greenwood Lake Commission for input in addition to the Environmental Commission. He also noted that the Regional Master Plan will probably mandate that this ordinance be "on the books."

Open Space Committee: Rob Sparkes reported that he was contacted by the Morris Land Conservancy about several properties being reviewed by the Township for possible Open Space. Information was requested for Random Woods and Castle Rock property.

Autumn Lights Festival: Rob Sparkes and Chairman Sanlge reported on the proposed purchase of Shower Coach units for disseminating at the Autumn Lights Festival. The MUA will purchase 500 and the Commission will purchase 200 for a total of 700. The MUA will produce labels for the units. The environmental bus trip with the Heritage Committee's historic tour will also be planned for this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Highlands Initial Assessment Grant - Rob Sparkes reported that a consultant had been hired by the Township and work has begun on this grant.

Appreciation Plaques – Plaques for Daniel Kochjaki, Grace Davis and Bill Drew would be made and presented at the September meeting. The cost of the plaques would be \$24.00 each. The Commission concurred on the purchase of the plaques and presentation date.

MINUTES

The Chairman advised that there were too few members present for review and approval of the minutes of the March 3, 2008 and April 7, 2008 regular meetings. He asked that approval be carried to the next regular meeting.

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT

The following correspondence was noted and filed:

Notification and application for Highlands Applicability Determination from Edward Ostrowicz, 350 Morsetown Road, Block 4701; Lot 33.04 for construction of a single family dwelling for applicant's own use of family use.

Notice dated May 29, 2008 of Application for Highlands Applicability Determination for Mountain Lakes Autowash – Soil Movement Activity, Block 6701; Lot 13, Union Valley Rd.

Notification of application being made for Highlands Applicability Determination for Block 2404; Lot 7 for Ronald and Marianne Schmid.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The following correspondence was noted and filed:

Letter dated May 21, 2008 from NJDEP regarding "Total Maximum Daily Load Reports Addressing Total Phosphorous Impairment in the Non-Tidal Passaic River Basin, Pompton Lake and Ramapo River."

Letter dated May 23, 2008 from NJDEP regarding Butler Intake Reservoir Dam, approving the Class III, low hazard classification as recommended.

Authorization for a Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit No. 25 and Waiver for Transition Area for Access for Agatha Klocek, Block 13901; Lot 1, 28 Mt. Springs Road, regarding a septic alteration.

Authorization for Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit No. 25 and Waiver of Transition Area for Access for Eric Hastings, Block 3906; Lot 4 for on-site wastewater treatment system.

CORRESPONDENCE

Pequannock Post – June 2008

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There was no one present to address the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Commission meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,
Tonya E. Cubby
Secretary