

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

July 1, 2019

The July 1, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:03 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Clinton Smith (Alt#1), Douglas Trainor (Alt #2).

Absent: Tim Dalton, Chairman Stephen Sangle, Don Weise.

Also Present: Boy Scout Troop 159 Assistant Scout Leader and Scouts from Troop 159 and 114.

Acting Chairman Douglas Ott requested Doug Trainor and Clinton Smith to sit in for two of the absent Commissioners and then advised that there was a quorum for this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS

JOSEPH BARDI

Use and Bulk Variance #ZB-01-19-02

Block 507; Lot 2

11 Laramie Trail; LR Zone

Seeking: Use and Bulk Variance approvals for the removal of an existing garage and pool and the construction of a new 1040 sf garage and driveway on a lot with no primary structure, with bulk variance requested for front yard setback where 40 ft is required and 25 ft is proposed.

Following a review of the above referenced application for Joseph Bardi, the Commission noted that the applicant was proposing less impervious coverage than what exists, and rain barrels would be installed. They advised that there were no apparent environmental concerns.

KINGWOOD FLEX LLC

Preliminary & Final Site Plan W Bulk Variance #PB-03-18-03

Block 6401; Lots 1 & 3

1592 Union Valley Road

Seeking: Preliminary & Final Site Plan with Bulk Variance approval for the redevelopment of an existing mixed use commercial building including partial demolition of a commercial building and construction a 5,449 SF building addition to house a Dollar Tree store. Associated site improvements include parking areas, grading, landscaping, lighting and utilities. Revised plans submitted 06-19-19.

Following a review of the above referenced application for Kingwood Flex LLC, the Commission commented that the applicant was proposing improvements to current conditions on the site. They noted that the applicant was requesting numerous waivers from the Planning Board, but the response to the Commission's comments was favorable. In the correspondence dated June 18, 2019, Dynamic Engineering indicated that the applicant acknowledged the recommendation by the Commission to consider installation of photo voltaic array solar panels, but requested that it not be a condition of their approval. The applicant acknowledged that upon favorable determination by the Board, they are

willing to coordinate with the Commission to consider providing electric charging stations in an amount/location that is mutually agreed upon. They further acknowledged that upon favorable determination by the Board, they will coordinate with the Board Engineer to adequately provide oil/water separation onsite. With regard to the electric charging stations, one of the Commissioner's noted that Verizon installed 10 charging stations in their Bedminster testing facility and there is no charge for use of the chargers.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Shade Tree Committee / Community Forestry Mgt. Plan – Tim Dalton was absent and unable to provide an update at this meeting, but had advised via email that the Commission had received accreditation for 2019 from the NJDEP Division of Forestry for our CFMP requirements.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Clint Smith reported that there was consideration about installing a bridge across Belchers Creek and he repeated the mantra “Keep it local - keep it simple”. He made note of the canoe trip that was planned, and also indicated that Tim Dalton was working on the topographical features along the creek. With regard to the geese issue on Greenwood Lake, Mr. Smith advised that the program being considered by the Greenwood Lake Commission would be delayed to next year since the number of geese appeared to be less than originally thought.

Lakes Committee Commissioner Jim Rogers noted that Lake Hopatcong recently had warnings against contact with the water due to high levels of bacteria discovered during testing. He observed that there will be serious repercussions if Greenwood Lake suffers the same restrictions since it would be a major impact on recreation and the local economy. He further noted that there could be an impact on smaller lakes, and this is something that the Commission needs to be aware of. He suggested that, although the Lakes Committee did not have a meeting scheduled that month, they might convene with an emergency meeting to address the issue. Mr. Smith did not feel that there will be a problem with Greenwood Lake and commented that Lake Hopatcong was originally a pond until more recently, while Greenwood Lake has a long history and a strong flow of water.

Open Space Committee: Acting Chairman Douglas Ott reported that the Township received a quote from the Land Conservancy regarding a contract for their services for open space matters. This matter will be further reviewed by the Commission at next month's meeting when the Chairman will be present.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Thomas Tamayne reported that he received only one notification on a contamination issue. The Board reviewed the contamination issues listed on the agenda.

Belchers Creek Testing Project: Dave Ofshinsky and Doug Trainor conducted water tests on Belchers Creek in the areas of Bald Eagle, Stowaway and Crescent Park. The Crescent Park readings for nitrate were 17.6 and phosphate were 0.3. Commissioner Tom Tamayne inquired if this location was near a residential area. Mr. Ofshinsky noted that the location was near his residence and the water flow is typically lower and has been cloudy at times. He attempted to contact Suez at their emergency number, and also emailed them, but has not received a response. Mr. Tamayne suggested that he email them again to advise that the Commission is concerned and copy the Commissioners on the email.

ANJEC Grant Project – Belchers Creek Clean-Up: The Commission discussed the logistics and details of the upcoming boat tour of Belchers Creek that will take place on July 10, 2019 (rain date July 12) to assess the overgrowth and condition of the creek. A determination will be made whether a contractor will be required for the work that must be accomplished. The Commission concurred that only public lands, including Township and Board of Education owned property, will be the focus of the project at this time. Maps of

Belchers Creek with approximate access points, which had been prepared by Paul Zarrillo of the GWLC, were distributed to the Commission.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee: Doug Trainor reported that he attempted to contact the teacher at the WM High School to coordinate some projects with the Green Team. One of the Commissioners will reach out to the person supervising the High School Environmental Club.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

The Commission discussed some of the issues that have been an ongoing occurrence with debris (including pallets) finding its way into the brook behind the current Tractor Supply shopping center. Clint Smith observed that the owners of the property are aware of the issues. The Commission Secretary advised that monitoring cameras have been installed in an attempt to catch the perpetrators and deter further instances of damage to the brook.

MINUTES

The minutes from the June 3, 2019 regular meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission would be available for approval at the next regular meeting in August.

The following items were reviewed by the Commission:

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. None.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. NJDEP No Further Action notice, dated June 18, 2019, received for 17 Avalon Road, Block 1808; Lot 4, PI#808314, regarding the removal of one 550 gallon #2 HO UST.
2. NJDEP Division of Dam Safety correspondence from John Moyle, P.E., dated June 19, 2019, regarding City of Newark Dams Comprehensive Compliance Schedule, advising that the compliance schedule has been approved, with general maintenance and minor repairs in the most recent report to be completed by December 31, 2019. Additionally, all high risk/high priority items at all the Newark Dams should be frequently inspected by Newark personnel for changes and be part of all future inspection reports until repairs have been completed, unless the safety of the dams become an issue, at which time immediate repairs will be required. A schedule and procedure for reporting when monitoring certain dams must be established with the Division, with all existing features and equipment to be used for monitoring at this time.
3. NJDEP Division of Dam Safety correspondence from John Moyle, P.E., dated June 17, 2019, regarding High Crest Lake Dam, Dam File #22-161, advising that as of May 31, 2019, the Division has not received a Dam Safety Permit Application addressing all known deficiencies, and requesting evidence that the High Crest Lake Lodge has retained the services of an engineer and prepared the application by July 17, 2019, with an expedited scheduled for submitting the Dam Safety Application by July 31, 201.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District (HEPSCD) certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated May 8, 2019, received for David Sisco Izak, 38 Castle Rock Road, Block 2202; Lot 1.01 for disturbance of 0.27 acres for the construction of a pole barn.

2. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District (HEPSCD) certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated May 13, 2019, received for Scott Walker, Riverdale, NJ, regarding 1957 Macopin Road, Block 8002; Lot 6 for 0.715 acres of land grading.
3. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District (HEPSCD) certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated May 3, 2019, received for the Township of West Milford regarding Lycosky Drive, Block 6002; Lot 28.02 for 3.0 acres of disturbance for the Farrell Soccer Field Rehabilitation project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – The Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 159, Michael Benedetto, was present to address the Commission, referencing the four active scout troops in the community, and advised that there were various environmental and conservation requirements that the scouts must meet for their badges and awards. He suggested that the Commission reach out to the Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders for volunteers to assist them with some of the projects that the Commission is involved in. He noted that there are badges that they may be able to qualify for if they become involved in some of the Commission's projects, including citizenship in community, communications, conservation, and insect and animal themed badges. Mr. Benedetto noted that when the scouts are involved in environmental issues and they see damage that occurs when the environment is not respected or cared for, it will change their perspective and help to make a difference. He offered to become a source for outreach to the scouts for volunteer opportunities with the Commission and offered to provide a list of the scout leaders in the Township. He gave his contact information to the Commission Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the July 1, 2019 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:20 p.m. on a **motion** by Jim Rogers and a **second** by Dave Ofshinsky.

Approved: September 9, 2019

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary