

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

JULY 7, 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: Andrew Abdul, Douglas Ott, Irene Smith, Bernie Stapleton, Alternates MaryEllen Gabay, David Watson Hallowell, Chairman Stephen Sangle, GIS Specialist Robert Sparkes.

Absent: Gillian Hemstead, Timothy Metcalf.

APPLICATIONS – Awosting Association Minor Subdivision - Rob Sparkes reviewed the minor subdivision application for the Environmental Commission members. Dale Van Nimweggen, agent for the applicant, was present to address inquiries from the Board. Ms. Van Nimweggen noted that a Highlands application had been submitted. This application was administratively complete and scheduled for a Planning Board hearing at the end of July. The MUA has approved a sewer hookup for one lot and the other lot will use the existing connection. Following the review, the Chairman advised that the Environmental Commission had no objection to the subdivision provided the DEP give approval.

TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS – There were no telecommunication applications for review.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

West Milford Lakes-ANJEC Grant: Rob Sparkes advised that the final payment was being processed for the next billing period.

604(b) Owts Grant: Rob Sparkes reported that the location of the pesometers in the field in front of Town Hall have been given approval by the Interim Administrator, and this will also be incorporated into the grant. Mr. Sparkes advised that he is up to date on the quarterly reports for this grant.

2004 Greenwood Lake 319H Grant and 2007 Stormwater Implementation Grant 319H Grants: Rob Sparkes reported that Pat Rector is the new liaison to the Greenwood Lake Commission. He advised the Commission that he, Fred Lubnow, Irene Smith and Chairman Stephen Sangle had made site inspections of the various catch basins. The Chairman noted that there were heavy rains the day of the inspections, and conditions were optimum for observing water flow and collection. It was observed that a collection site near Wallisch Estates needs to be revised. The Chairman commented that many of the storm drains are on the high side of the roads.

Rob Sparkes and Chairman Sangle commented on the Greenwood Lake Commission's concerns about phosphorus increase in Greenwood Lake with the DEP dam breaching of West Milford Lake. The Chairman noted that testing now will give baseline data. Rob will speak to Pat Rector regarding use of monies for testing from the 604b grant. The DEP will have to authorize the testing.

Rob Sparkes attended a watershed meeting in Hawthorne and received information about optical brightener testing. The brighteners, dyes used in detergents, do not occur naturally, and they are being introduced into the ecosystem. A hand held detector that can test for optical brighteners is available. He will get more information and report back to the Commission. Chairman Sangle asked Mr. Sparkes to get information and costs, adding that the MUA might be able to assist in the costs.

Streetscape Grant: Rob Sparkes reported the survey was complete and a draft design is forthcoming. This will go before the Planning Board then the Township Council. The Chairman inquired if the new Walgreen's will coordinate their site improvements with the streetscape. Mr. Sparkes noted that it is a condition of their approval, adding that applicant Inserra (Shop Rite) will also be asked to coordinate their project with the proposed streetscape designs. Mr. Sparkes also advised that a grant had been applied for regarding sustainable design and had passed the "first cut." He would report on this when more information is available.

Urban Forestry Grants: Mr. Sparkes reported that he met Kathleen Caren several weeks prior and she indicated that there should be no problem with the County reimbursement of the remaining grant monies provided that the Township approved the request for reimbursement through a resolution.

ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant Program 2008: Mr. Sparkes had received no official word on this to date. Mr. Hallowell inquired about proposed bike paths being funded by this grant. Mr. Sparkes reviewed the grant requirements, noting that it was a planning grant, and the bike path would require an implementation grant. Mr. Sparkes asked members to advise him if they have recommendations on trails. The Commission discussed several sites and some parameters of the grant.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Community Forestry Plan: MaryEllen Gabay advised that she would have a report the following month.

Energy Committee: Bernie Stapleton reported that he attended a Township Council meeting to inquire about their lack of response to the Environmental Commission's request for a reply on the status of the energy audit and implementation. Tim Metcalf plans to attend the next Council meeting and address the Council's assertions that, as a representative of the Environmental Commission, he had not attended Energy committee meetings. Several members commented on the waste of energy and noted that it will not reflect favorably on the Township. The Chairman expressed concern about the waste of money and noted the negative effects on the Township's budget. Mr. Ott noted that a new facilities committee was being formed. The Commissioners agreed that they have repeatedly attempted to work with the Council to have cost saving measures implemented. Mr. Stapleton noted that he attempted to get a response from the Township Council, but was unsuccessful. Following several comments, the Commission agreed to wait for the outcome in the next several weeks.

Lakes Committee and Septic Maintenance:

Irene Smith reported that a draft septic maintenance report had been reviewed by the Lakes Committee. Rob Sparkes reported that three reports were distributed to the Lakes Committee: one from Gillian, one from the Township Attorney, and one from Jefferson. These reports will be provided to the Greenwood Lake Commission. The ordinance that the Environmental Commission received was prepared by the Township Attorney. He advised that a septic maintenance ordinance is moving forward, adding that the Highlands Master Plan will require it. There were five or six parameters included the ordinance; Mr. Sparkes prepared a chart including parameters from other towns that he will forward to the Environmental Commission.

Wetland Mitigation Project:

Rob Sparkes reported that the project is complete, with the exception of the signage. He noted that the vernal pool, trees and flowers are all thriving and invited the Commissioners to visit the site. He will be contacting Les Lynn about the signage recommendations. Doug Ott advised that he will visit the site and take a water sample.

Open Space Committee:

Rob Sparkes reported that property owner Ann Gallman had offered her property to the Township for Open Space, adding that this property is between the Sheridan property and Eagles Ridge, facing Morsetown Road. Mr. Sparkes had been in contact with the Morris Land Conservancy and they indicated that contracts had been signed.

Mr. Sparkes also reported that the Random woods property was proposed for open space designation with the exception of a small portion that may be used for a library or a ball field. The Morris Land Conservancy was authorized to contact the property owners. Mr. Sparkes asked the Environmental Commission to advise him of any properties that should be open space and he will ask the Morris Conservancy to contact the owners. He asked Doug Ott, Bernie Stapleton and Tim Metcalf to review their list of proposed open space properties, update it, and he will contact the Conservancy with an updated list. It was noted that a formal list had not been prepared. Mr. Ott inquired where the funds for the

Gallman property came from, and Mr. Sparkes advised that it was Green Acres money. Andrew Abdul inquired about a map of the green acre properties. Mr. Sparkes noted that it was just updated that day and he will email a copy to the members.

Autumn Lights Festival: Rob Sparkes and Chairman Sanlge reported on the purchase of 700 Shower Coach units for disseminating at the Autumn Lights Festival. Carol Sparkes will be doing a presentation on rain barrels. Mr. Sparkes also advised that he has coloring books and other items for the children. The Trail conference has requested to be on site with the Environmental Commission. Maryellen Gabay will be staffing the table for the Commission. The Environmental Commission's bus trip with the Heritage Committee's historic tour is also planned for this year. Mrs. Gabay had some suggestions for the scavenger hunt. Andrew Abdul advised that he would be out of the country during Autumn Lights so would be unable to do a geological tour of West Milford.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 3, 2008, April 7, 2008, and May 12, 2008 regular meetings were approved on a motion by Bernie Stapleton with a second by Douglas Ott.

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT

The following correspondence was noted and filed:

Notice received June 19, 2008 of Violation and Offer of Settlement for Eugene Hazelman & Renata Shaposhnikov at 778 Macopin Road, Block 12107; Lot 2, 3 for unauthorized regulated activities within a freshwater wetland transition area.

Notification of Highlands Applicability Determination application by Thomas Celano, Cahill Cross Road, Block 5309; Lot 1.

Notification of Highlands Applicability Determination application by Elaine Kramer, 715 East Shore Road, Block 4301; Lot 11.

Resolution 2008-229 adopted by the Township Council on June 11, 2008 regarding a grant request for funding to conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

Notification of Application for Highlands Applicability Determination for Awosting Association, Inc. for 99 Long Pond Road, Block 4106; Lot 1.

Application for a GP 25 for Castronova Corporation, 1612 Union Valley Road, Block 6401; Lot 10 & 11, for replacement of failed septic system.

Resolution 2008-235 adopted by the Township Council on June 11, 2008 requesting reimbursement of \$6,635.00 for Passaic County Urban Forestry Completed Grant Work

Copy of application packet to NJ D.E.P. from UGL P.O.A. for a Freshwater Wetland General Permit #13 for lake bottom restoration/desilting/dredging at Block 2901, Witte Cove.

Notice from the NJ DEP regarding the Kitchell Lake Dam finding the dam to be in satisfactory condition with maintenance and minor repairs necessary (the Bureau of Dam Safety concurred), an acceptable timetable has been submitted for compliance, and the pedestrian bridge proposal is approved.

Notice of Deficiency from the NJDEP dated June 24, 2008 for Nicole Woronekin, 16 Commanche Lane for failure to conduct remediation at the site.

Conditional – No Further Action Letter and Covenant Not to Sue received from the NJ DEP dated June 25, 2008 regarding Gary Oppenheimer, 24 Clover Road, Newfoundland for site remediation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Resolution 2008-229 adopted by the Township Council on June 11, 2008 regarding a grant request for funding to conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

Notification from ANJEC regarding sponsored cruises on the A.J. Meerwald, a restored 1928 oyster schooner July 24 – 27, 2008.

Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of plan for: Mountain Lakes Autowash, Mr. Wonton, and Gordon Lakes Dam, received July 2, 2008.

A commission member inquired about the soil conservation district correspondence and Rob Sparkes explained the process in which soil movement activities are monitored by the HEPSCD.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Commission meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Approved: 09/08/08

Respectfully Submitted,
Tonya E. Cubby
Secretary