

# **Township of West Milford ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES**

**AUGUST 4, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Acting Chairman Douglas Ott followed by a reading of the Legal Notice.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

Marilyn Lichtenberg was present to address the Commission regarding the following: leaking in-ground oil tanks causing harmful effects to the environment and loss to the homeowner; streetscape grant – requested that when considering the streetscape proposal that poles be considered for hanging banners for Township events; thanked members on the Environmental Commission for their efforts. The Commission expressed their concerns about the lack of response by the Township to the energy audit completed and the energy loss with inefficient facilities. It was noted that a Facilities Committee was recently formed to address energy and ADA needs.

**APPLICATIONS** – CHARLES AIKEY - Use Variance #0140-0549, Block 9501; Lots 19.02 & 20, 144 Wesley Drive; R-3 Zone – Rob Sparkes reviewed the application for the Commission, noting that the lot sizes are smaller than the R-3 required lot sizes, so a use variance is needed, and it will be decided by the Board of Adjustment. He contacted the M.U.A. and was informed that this was an old on-going application, and that the applicant had approval for water, but not for sewer hookups.

**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 received and being processed. He also noted that the Planning board had adopted an amendment to the Open Space Plan and West Milford Lake was on the Open space list. Gillian Hemstead inquired about a dam breach update and Mr. Sparkes replied that there was no update. He also advised that the Greenwood Lake Commission had issues with the dam breaching and Pat Rector is looking into it. The concerns surfaced after a presentation and documents were submitted to them for review. He also noted that a call from a reporter for The Record initiated some calls to the NJ DEP and they indicated that money was in place for the dam breaching, but several details needed to be worked out.

**604(b) Owts Grant:** Rob Sparkes reported that progress is continuing with regard to this project.

**2004 Greenwood Lake 319H Grant and 2007 Stormwater Implementation Grant 319H Grants:** Rob Sparkes reported that the engineering work is almost complete, but more surveying was needed. He had a resolution prepared for more funds for the additional surveying. Mr. Sparkes advised that he, Fred Lubnow and Rich McFadden would meet to review the plan in the next several weeks.

**Streetscape Grant:** Rob Sparkes reported that he, the Interim Administrator, the Township Planner Chuck McGroarty, and Rich McFadden, Township Engineer, walked the site and were discussing various ideas and concepts. They will be incorporated into the plan. Mr. Ott suggested that the Council be invited to the Planning Board meeting for a presentation on the streetscape.

**Urban Forestry Grants:** Mr. Sparkes reported that there is a financing issue that needs to be worked out and he will report at the next meeting, if updated.

**ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant Program 2008:** Mr. Sparkes had received no official word on this to date, but application had been made.

## **ON GOING BUSINESS**

**Community Forestry Plan:** Nothing new to report at this time.

**Energy Committee:** Mr. Sparkes reported that another memo was sent to the Township Council, but this time a reply was requested.

**Lakes Committee and Septic Maintenance:** Rob Sparkes that the main focus is the septic ordinance and he will report on that later in the meeting.

**Wetland Mitigation Project:** Rob Sparkes reported that George White invited the Environmental Commission to walk the site at Wallisch Estates on Wednesday, August 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and give suggestions for signage. Dr. Les Lynn was invited and Bernie Stapleton expressed interest in attending.

**Open Space Committee:** Rob Sparkes reported that West Milford Lake is to be included on the Open Space list, and asked members to contact him with any additional suggestions for property to be included on the list.

**Septic Maintenance:** Gillian Hemstead reported on the septic maintenance ordinance and read the draft proposed ordinance by the Township. The fees are different than the Commission had recommended, and noted that it would be a three-year licensing system. The fees proposed would be \$50.00 initial application fee and a \$25.00 renewal fee. She advised that it would be mandated for the whole Township (those with septic systems) but the timeline for instituting was not included. There was discussion about plot plans and stormwater management plan. Rob Sparkes advised that he would get a digital copy of the ordinance to the Commissioners.

**Autumn Lights Festival:** Rob Sparkes reported on the purchase of 800 Shower Coach units for disseminating at the Autumn Lights Festival. The Municipal Utilities Authority provided \$1,100. and the Environmental Commission provided \$300. for the purchase of the units. Gillian Hemstead reported on the vast amount of plastic grocery bags used annually in the U.S. She requested that the E.C. promote reusable bags. The Environmental Commission's bus trip with the Heritage Committee's historic tour is also planned for this year. Mr. Sparkes asked for a volunteer to lead a tour for the Commission.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Rob Sparkes advised that the Township Planner, Chuck McGroarty, would attend the Environmental commission meeting in September. Fred Lubnow will also be there to give updates on grants. Mr. McGroarty will review the Shop Rite expansion and renovation application. Ms. Hemstead asked that more trees in the parking lot be considered and Mr. Sparkes replied that that has been addressed. Bernie Stapleton asked about snowplowing and Mr. Sparkes advised that this was also being addressed. The Commission discussed parking space options.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting were approved on a motion by Gillian Hemstead and a second by Bernie Stapleton.

## **HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT**

Notice from NJ DEP regarding withdrawal of an application for Highlands Applicability Determination and Water Quality Management Plan for George Degraw, Brookside Development LLC, 121 Union Valley Road, Block 14601; Lot 5.01.

Application for Highlands Applicability and Water Quality Management Plan from Elaine Kramer, 715 East Shore Road, Block 4301; Lot 11 received July 24, 2008.

Notice from NJ DEP regarding Edward Ostrowicz, Block 4701; Lots 33.04, 350 Morsetown Road – Highlands Act – Exempt #1; Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Copy of application for Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #25 received for Amedeo Nazzaro at 14 Hirth Avenue, Newfoundland for a septic alteration.

Authorization for a Freshwater Wetlands G.P. 25 for Castronova Corp. at Block 6401; Lots 10, 11.

Notice from the NJDEP regarding Block 12305; Lots 17.01 and 17.02, Chiarello Family Trust, Burlington Drive, received July 3, 2008. Agency Determination – Highlands Act – Exempt #2 and Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

Application for NJ DEP regarding a GP25 for replacement of a septic in a wetlands transition area for Ron Kurkowski, 99 Bayonne Drive, Block 1611; Lot 15.

Notice of pending application to the NJDEP for Treatment Works Approval Permit to construct a septic system not in conformance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A et seq. for Vincent Lanza, Block 12110; Lot 3.01 and Lot 5.03.

Notice from NJ DEP of pending expiration on January 1, 2009 regarding Renewal of a Recycling Center General Approval for Skytop Recycling, Inc., Airport Road, West Milford, NJ.

Notice from NJ DEP of Conditional - No Further Action Letter and Covenant Not to Sue for Block 13101; Lot 3, 11 Mallory Road, West Milford, NJ.

Authorization for Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit No. 25 and Waiver of Transition for Access for applicant Joyce MacDonald, Block 8002; Lot 5 regarding a septic alteration.

Notice from NJ DEP of Unrestricted Use - No Further Action Letter and Covenant Not to Sue regarding an Area of Concern for William Snyder, Block 15401; Lot 24, 38 Meadowview Court relating to a 550 gallon heating oil underground storage tank.

Notice from NJ DEP of Conditional – No Further Action Letter and Covenant Not to Sue regarding the Dobb's Residence, Block 16804; Lot 4, 84 Greendale Drive relating to a 550 gallon heating oil underground storage tank.

Notice from NJ DEP of Unrestricted Use – No Further Action Letter and Covenant Not to Sue regarding Jeff Tacconi, 156 Bearfort Road, Block 7401; Lot 2.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Copy of a letter dated July 16, 2008 to Kerry Miller of ANJEC from Rob Sparkes regarding final voucher of \$779.00 submitted, approved and paid for the "Green Infrastructure Study and Plan for West Milford Lake."

ANJEC Environmental Awards notice, Deadline for Award Nominations is September 1, 2008.

2008 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards application notice - Deadline September 19, 2008.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Gillian Hemstead's daughter was present and noted that she had recently completed an article for school on the streetscape project entitled "shady Business in Downtown."

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Approved: October 6, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tonya E. Cubby  
Secretary