

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

AUGUST 5, 2013

The August 5, 2013 regular meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL: Present: Andrew Abdul, Gary Oppenheimer, Douglas Ott (L), Thomas Tamayne, Alternates Jennifer Easterbrook & Lucas Slott, Chairman Stephen Sangle.
Absent: Timothy Dalton, Don Weise

Chairman Stephen Sangle requested Jennifer Easterbrook and Luke Slott to sit in for Tim Dalton and Don Weise. He advised that a quorum was present to conduct this meeting.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

2007 GWL NPS 319(h) Grant: Chairman Sangle advised that Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro indicated that he would be at the September Environmental Commission meeting to provide an update.

NJDEP Green Communities \$3000.00 Grant for Community Forestry Management Plan: Ron Farr was not present to provide an update, but the grant was signed by the Township officials and sent to the NJDEP. Chairman Sangle advised that this grant was required prior to the award of the No Net Loss Reforestation Grant. He will email Mr. Farr and request that he meet with the Commission's Forestry Subcommittee to coordinate the tasks needed to complete the Community Forestry Management Plan as soon as possible.

NJDEP NNL Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00: The Township has not yet been notified of the award of this grant, but it should be awarded once the NJDEP is assured that we will be completing the Community Forestry Management Plan.

Recreational Trails Signage Grant: No one was present to provide an update, but all indications are that the signs have been installed.

2006 (Repurposed) Recreational Trails Grant for Environmental Boardwalk: Chairman Sangle reported that the State has allowed the Township to utilize the unused funds from the 2006 Recreational Trails Grant to make the existing Environmental Boardwalk ADA accessible. With a limited amount of time available, he and Bob Jonas received and reviewed proposals for a carpenter to be hired with the grant funds. The work included installing a portion of the required (75%) railings, and leftover floorboards on the boardwalk will be replaced. Chairman Sangle visited the site with his wife to assess the accessibility, and it appears to be in compliance. The remaining funds will be used towards creating ADA parking spaces at the Maple Road School across from the Environmental Boardwalk. Bob Jonas has been working with the Township, as well as the Board of Education to coordinate the project. Gary Oppenheimer commented that the used planks from the boardwalk might be able to be used for the community garden; he will advise David Watson Hallowell who is the contact for the garden.

2010 ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant-Trails Master Plan: No update was available.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Lakes Committee: Andy Abdul distributed copies of the Lakes Committee minutes and reported that the Chief of Police attended the last meeting to discuss various issues including vandalism, teen alcohol use on the lake association properties, etc. He advised that Marilyn Lichtenberg had also been present to update the Lakes Committee on the septic database that she has been working on with the Health Dept. Chairman Sangle commented that a problem with some of the lakes is that many of the gates are locked when they are not in season, and suggested that the police get sets of keys for emergency access. It was noted that the police department might have keys to certain lake community properties.

Open Space Subcommittee: Chairman Sangle noted that there were no recent meetings by the Open Space Committee. The Commission discussed the recent adoption of Resolution 2013-161 by the Township regarding the inclusion of a referendum on the November ballot regarding the division of monies collected for open space starting in 2014. It was noted that there was an article in the local Aim Newspaper expressing the Commission's concern regarding the allocation of funds for purposes other than open space. The Commission concurred that several members should attend the Township Council meeting on August 21, 2013 to address the matter. The Secretary was directed to send a memo advising of the Commission's comments and request to

be placed on the agenda to discuss possible revisions to the resolution so that it is more pro-environment. The Commission discussed the comments of the Parks and Recreation representative who attended the Environmental Commission meeting in July. He acknowledged that his committee assisted in drafting the referendum language so that capital improvements for recreational sites were an option in the future. The Commission concurred that the Council should be aware of their desire that environmentally sensitive properties should be specified in the referendum language, with the remaining 1/3 for historical properties, and 1/3 for maintenance of recreation fields. Chairman Sangle observed that the language should be clearer so the voters know what they are voting for. It was noted that the current amount in the open space fund was approximately \$600,000, but all new appropriations for open space funds collected as a tax is the focus of the referendum. Resident Doris Aaronson commented that in the past, many of the purchases for open space were partnered with Passaic County funds, but there seemed to be the impression with the County that the Highlands Act has reduced the need for additional open space since West Milford is in the preservation area and most of the land can't be developed. Chairman Sangle stressed that the "greenbelt" that was approved as part of the land use element of the master plan should be emphasized for its importance to the environment. Luke Slott suggested that during the presentation to the Council, a request should be made to revise the referendum language to include environmentally sensitive properties, and Chairman Sangle stated that the address to the Council should include the socio-economic effect of the purchase of properties for trail connections, as well as those that would serve multiple purposes. A statement in the form of a memo would be sent to the Township Administrator along with a request for representatives of the Environmental Commission to be included on the August 21, 2013 Township Council agenda.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reported that between the efforts of the Mayor and the Township Administrator, a meeting was arranged with the Health Officer to discuss contaminated sites in West Milford. A report was to be provided monthly so that the Commission could be updated on the various contamination issues. A review of the list that had previously been used indicated that many of the contaminated cases were closed in West Milford, but had not been included in the records of the NJDEP as closed.

Green Team–Sustainable Jersey: Tom Tamayne reported that the prior Green Team/Sustainable West Milford meeting was cancelled and there was nothing new to report.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline: Luke Slott advised the Commission that the work continues on the TGP project, although the Ringwood portion of the project was supposed to be completed by this time. He also reported that a recent newspaper article revealed a shale gas plume in the area that could be explored as a future gas source.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Autumn Lights Festival – Tim Dalton, Luke Slott, and Andy Abdul will assist at Autumn Lights. The Secretary will advise of any updates received from the festival organizers.

Gary Oppenheimer reported that the newly opened Vreeland Store is a convenient place for bicyclists and will suggest to the owner that a bike rack be installed. The site also has rooms for rent as a bed and breakfast.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 4, 2013, April 1, 2013, and May 6, 2013 Regular Meetings of the West Milford Environmental Commission were **unanimously approved** on a **motion** by Chairman Stephen Sangle and a **second** by Thomas Tamayne, with a correction to the March 4, 2013 minutes noted by Luke Slott.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - *The following was reviewed by the Commission and filed:*

Highlands Water Protection And Planning Act Correspondence

1. Continuation of the 2009 Highlands Exemption #2 and Water Quality Management Plan Consistency Determination received from the NJDEP, dated July 5, 2013, regarding Inserra/West Milford – Shop Rite, Block 6303; Lots 15 & 16 based on the submission of the amended site plans for the proposed expansion of the shopping center.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Flood Hazard Area General Permit #4 dated July 23, 2013, received for the Township of West Milford, authorizing improvements to an existing drainage system along Durant Road within the flood hazard area and

riparian zone of Belchers Creek, including the relocation and reconfiguration of the existing stormwater pipe and outfall structure, construction of a retaining wall, and installation of a vegetated filter strip.

2. Notification dated July 9, 2013 by the NJ DOT regarding the 2014 State Aid Program for the improvement of the local transportation infrastructure through the development of traditional and non-traditional transportation initiatives.

3. Response Action Outcome, dated July 12, 2013, received from David Robinson of Synergy Environmental Inc. regarding Kimber Petroleum Corp., Lakeside Amoco, Block 3509; Lot 16, advising that the remediation has been completed in compliance with the Administrative Requirements for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites.

4. Copy of a letter dated July 12, 2013 to the NJDEP Land Use Regulation from Ferriero Engineering Inc. regarding the proposed Township of West Milford Library, Block 7903; Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, transmitting a copy of the proposed conservation restriction map dated May 2, 2013 and a grant of the conservation restriction easement in support of the Highlands Preservation Area Approval application with redevelopment waiver as a response to condition #4 of the HPA, and requesting confirmation that the information is acceptable for filing with Passaic County so the Township can begin construction.

5. Notice of an application being submitted to the NJDEP by Map Engineering for a GP #25 for 2012 Macopin Road; Block 7902; Lot 4 for the alteration of an ISDS.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Pequannock Post, Volume 18, Issue 4, August 2013.

2. Environmental Analysis and Communications (EAC) Group of Rutgers University Bloustein School sessions planned for July and August 2013 for the purpose of soliciting input from Planning Board and Environmental Commission members on design of an online mapping tool to support environmental health activities at a local level.

3. Notification received on July 24, 2013 from ANJEC that "ANJEC News", a complimentary e-newsletter for ANJEC members containing information that may be useful to Environmental Commissions, is available on their website.

4. Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education programs: Stormwater Management – 10/2, 3, 4 - \$825.00; Lake Management – 11/14, 15 - \$395.00; HEC-RAS – 12/4, 5, 6 - \$825.00.

5. Notice from the County of Passaic Planning Dept. dated July 12, 2013 regarding the Twins Realty Group site plan, Block 3906; Lots 9 & 10 and Block 6002; Lot 34.01, Burnt Meadow Road, requesting additional information including revised drainage calculations for seepage pits and indicating the impact on culvert #247, revised plans eliminating County signature block, and copies of any permits required by the NJDEP.

6. Notice from Passaic County Planning Dept. dated July 29, 2013 regarding the Inserra West Milford site plan, Block 6303; Lots 15 & 16, 25 Marshall Hill Road, requesting a copy of the filed sidewalk easement from 2009, and revised plans including notes concerning proposed double yellow centerlines, 4 inches wide for the driveways, prior to unconditional approval being considered for this site.

7. Certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan dated June 25, 2013 received from Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District for Slabaugh Landing Single Family dwelling, Block 2702; Lot 17, 54 Landing Road, certified for 3.5 years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doris Aaronson advised that a memorial service for the late Ella Phillipone was held at the Passaic River Coalition headquarters in Morristown on July 13, 2013. The position for New Jersey Chairman of the Greenwood Lake Commission, recently vacated by the passing of Ms. Phillipone, was open to candidates from New Jersey. Letters of interest should be submitted to the Passaic County Freeholders office. Ms. Aaronson also reported that the Passaic River Coalition was in need of a full time director, a position also held by Ms. Phillipone. Chairman Sangle noted that this position would most likely require a background in administration, environmental knowledge, and public relations.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was **adjourned** at **8:45 p.m.** on a **motion** by Chairman Stephen Sangle and a **second** by Andy Abdul.

Approved: November 4, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary