

Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Township of West Milford was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Chairman Stephen Sangle, following the reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL: Present: Andrew Abdul (7:43), Gillian Hemstead, Timothy Metcalf, Douglas Ott, *Vacancy, Vacancy*, Alternates Gary Oppenheimer, Maryellen Gabay and Chairman Stephen Sangle.
Absent: None.

Chairman Sangle requested Alternates Gary Oppenheimer and Maryellen Gabay to sit in for vacant positions.

PRESENTATIONS

Recycling Update – David Stires, Recycling Coordinator, was present to update the Commission on recent recycling practices in the Township. He advised that the Township's Recycling contractor is accepting items imprinted from numbers 1 to 7, but they are not taking plastic bags at this time. Shop Rite is currently accepting plastic bags for recycling at their site on Marshall Hill Road. He also advised that cardboard and paper cartons are being sent to Marcal to be reused, and asked that they be brought to the Recycling Center. Styrofoam is not taken for recycling in the Township, but Tupperware #5 and #6 are taken, in addition to coffee can lids. As for old medicines, West Milford has a medicine day each year for disposing of medicines, but he also suggested disposing them with coffee grinds. With regard to fluorescent light bulbs, Mr. Stires noted that they do contain mercury, which is a hazardous waste, so residents are urged to take them to Lowe's or Home Depot for disposal, or dispose them during the Hazardous Waste Collection Days that are held once or twice during the year. He noted that recycled products are carefully examined at the Recycling Center to make sure that the item is disposed of properly and that anything that can result in money for the Township is recycled. Another item that can be recycled are Fisher Price plastic toys marked with a #2. As for batteries, Mr. Stires stated that they are being separated from the trash by volunteers and community service workers, adding that no stores, that he is aware of, are accepting old batteries. Bottle caps are not recyclable at this time. He also noted that if a plastic product cracks or breaks, then it is usually not recyclable.

Chairman Sangle suggested posting photos on the dumpsters at the Recycling Center as it might help in getting people to recognize what product is being accepted. Gillian Hemstead noted that the State of NJ does free laminating services. Mr. Stires advised that 56 dumpsters were donated by Waste Management to encourage the Township to recycle more. He noted several locations that do not recycle, including the local women's shelters and several businesses, adding that recycling education is being pursued to correct this problem. He also advised that the next Beautification Day was September 25, 2010, and that services are being provided by various people gratis. He requested local scouts to participate. Gary Oppenheimer suggested that posters be hung at Shop Rite and A&P illustrating the items that can be recycled. Mr. Stires noted that they are trying to make presentations at the schools, but more education is needed. Mr. Ott commented that an item like used aluminum foil can be recycled, but often overlooked. Mr. Oppenheimer inquired about local businesses, and Mr. Stires said that they are not recycling much with bottles and cans, but some of the paper products are being recycled, adding that most only have one dumpster for all recycling. Mr. Ott inquired about books being recycled, and Mr. Stires replied that hard cover books have the cover removed and the paper is chipped.

Mr. Stires reported that the Township had 240 tons less recyclables going into solid waste this year, at a savings of \$70.00 a ton. Mr. Oppenheimer suggested that residents be made aware of how much they are saving each year by recycling. Mr. Stires commented that he sometimes receives negative comments about the recycling program, and that not all residents are on board with the recycling concept. A Commissioner inquired about computers, and Mr. Stires advised that most are brought to the Recycling Center to a trailer supplied by Goodwill and Dell and the computers are being reconditioned and given to the disadvantaged. As for household appliances, they are disassembled and the parts are recycled. He also noted that car batteries are recycled and are producing money for the Township.

Following the Recycling update, Chairman Sangle requested Mr. Stires join the Environmental Commission for the Autumn Lights Festival and assist in disseminating recycling information. Chairman Sangle also invited Mr. Stires to come back periodically to the Commission to give an update on the recycling program, adding that the Green Team may be able to assist in the effort. The Commission thanked Mr. Stires for the informative presentation.

APPLICATIONS

GAETANO T. RIDOLFO

USE VARIANCE ZB-06-10-06

Bulk Variance ZB-06-10-06

Block 3702; Lot 1

20 Laurel Ave., R-2 Zone

Seeking: Use and Bulk Variances for storage garage in a residential zone.

The Commission carefully reviewed the Use Variance application by Gaetano Ridolfo. Following review, the Commission had the following comments:

- The Commission inquired what the applicant proposes to store in the structure. If it is machinery or vehicles, there was concern expressed about leaking oil. There was also concern about storage of contaminants.
- The Commission asked that lighting at the site or on the building be addressed to insure that it does not affect adjacent residential property owners.
- The Commission commented about the access to the building and what type of surface would be used for the access drive.

The Commission has reserved the right to review the application and findings of the Board of Adjustment following the hearing.

TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS - None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

2004 Greenwood Lake 319H Grant and 2007 Stormwater Implementation 319H Grant: No update at this time.

Streetscape Grant: No update at this time.

ANJEC Trails Master Plan Grant: Chairman Sangle advised that next month the “kick off meeting” will be held with George White. This item will be first on the agenda and Kerry Miller from ANJEC and Township Administrator Kevin Boyle will be invited to attend the meeting.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Lakes Committee: No report at this time.

Open Space Subcommittee: Chairman Sangle reported that a meeting was held with the Township Administrator and several of the Council members. Following discussion with them, procedures were set up for the Commission to be advised of open space property status.

Environmental Contamination Issues: No update at this time.

Sustainable Jersey - Sustainable West Milford – Green Team: Chairman Sangle reported that an informal meeting was held and on September 15, 2010 the Council will consider naming the Green Team as part of the Commission, and a subcommittee will be formed.

Beaver Dam at Environmental Boardwalk: It was reported that we have not had much rain, and there did not appear to be any major problems with the beavers at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Car Wash Fundraisers: Chairman Sangle reported that this issue was raised due to the number of car wash fundraisers held in the Township, and there was a suggestion that the local car wash assist the

organizations with the fundraisers to help deter the detergents from draining into the streams and waterways, and reduce the amount of water taken from the aquifers.

Annual Report to Township Council: The report has now been postponed until after October 2010 when the bids for the 319h grant are received.

ALF – Autumn Lights Festival – The date for the Autumn Lights Festival is October 9, 2010 and a table will be reserved for the Commission, to be shared by the Recycling Coordinator. Gillian Hemstead requested that the table space be near the Sustainable West Milford organization.

MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the July 12, 2010 and August 2, 2010 Regular Meetings of the West Milford Environmental Commission were held to the next meeting.

The following was noted and filed:

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT

1. Notice of Deficiency, dated August 4, 2010, received from the NJ DEP regarding Harold Thomas, 89 Lincoln Avenue, for failure to pay the DEP's Oversight Cost Invoice with reference to review of all reports (Remedial Action Report) and investigations pertaining to site remediation.
2. Notice of an application, dated August 4, 2010, to the NJ DEP for a GP#25 for Mary Henaghen, 1812 Clinton Road, Block 207; Lot 11, with regard to a proposed installation of a sanitary disposal system.
3. Flood Hazard Area Determination from the NJ DEP, dated August 3, 2010, received for Linda Seibert, 22 John Street, Block 6602; Lot 13, stating that no flood hazard area permit is required for the proposed repair of a subsurface sanitary disposal system along Belcher's Creek as the repairs will be outside the flood hazard area and riparian zone of a regulated water.
4. Flood Hazard Area Determination from the NJ DEP, dated August 3, 2010, received for Mr. & Mrs. Robert Michaud, 6 Glencross Road, Block 7005; Lot 4, stating that no flood hazard area permit is required for the proposed installation of a subsurface sanitary disposal system along Belcher's Creek as the repairs will be outside the flood hazard area and riparian zone of a regulated water.
5. No Further Action letter received from the NJ DEP, dated August 11, 2010, regarding Kerrie Tomasiewicz, 1 Smithville Road, Block 705; Lot 9, with respect to removal of a 550 gallon No. 2 Fuel Oil underground storage tank and associated contaminated soils.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. Letter received from Deron Jordan, President of the Pinecliff Lake Community Club, dated August 10, 2010, objecting to the proposed construction of a sidewalk on Pinecliff Lake property along Union Valley Road, and outlining reasons for the objection.
2. Notice from NJ COAH, dated August 10, 2010, advising that the Scarce Resource Restraint for West Milford has been lifted due to West Milford meeting COAH's requirements for filing a Petition for Third Round Substantive Certification and also due to its commitment to providing a realistic opportunity for affordable housing for low and moderate income residents.
3. Notice regarding a Freshwater Wetlands Application for a General Permit for the construction of one or more buildings on 1221 Union Valley Road, Block 7702; Lot 7 for Strengthen Our Sisters.
4. Notice regarding a Freshwater Wetlands Application for a General Permit #25 a septic alteration for 37 Cahill Cross Road, Block 8101; Lot 26, Jeffrey and Jennifer Ray.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Pequannock Post, Volume 15, Issue 4, August 2010.
2. ANJEC 37th Annual Environmental Congress – "On the Front Line – Local Environmental Action in Challenging Times"; October 15, 2010, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ
3. Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station regarding environmental training courses for Fall 2010 including Stormwater Management, Soils & Site Evaluation for Septic Disposal Systems and Stormwater BMPs, Lake Management, ARC GIS Introduction, and Environment and Public Health.

4. Rutgers – NJ Agricultural Experiment Station - Lake Management – December 2-3, 2010 - \$345.00.
5. Water Conservation Workshop – Sustainable Jersey – 09-16-10 at 3:00 – Alder Ave. Middle School, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doris Aaronson sent information to the Commission about a Groundwater Summit on October 5, 2010 in Hanover, NJ.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was **adjourned** at 8: 40 p.m. on a **motion** by Doug Ott and a **second** by Gillian Hemstead.

Approved: December 13, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary