

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

October 5, 2015

The October 5, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at **7:32 p.m.** with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: Andrew Abdul, Tim Dalton, Gary Oppenheimer, Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Alt #1
Jennifer Easterbrook, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: Lucas Slott, Alt #2.

Also Present: Councilman Lou Signorino (7:50), David Ofshinsky, Lily Mastrodomis (Watershed Ambassador).

Chairman Sangle advised that a quorum was present to conduct this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Americorps NJDEP Watershed Ambassador – Lily Mastrodomis - Watershed Management Area 3 – Pequannock, Wanaque, Ramapo & Pompton Rivers - Ms. Mastrodomis introduced herself to the Commission and provided a brief summary of her duties as the newly appointed Watershed Ambassador. She reviewed the some of the responsibilities with her position – to actively engage the community in the health and well-being of their environment, which includes clean trails and streams. Through the appointment, the Watershed Ambassador provides residents and businesses with the information to make responsible decisions with regard to the environment, helps to advance environmental awareness in New Jersey citizens, and performs public outreach through contacts with schools, community groups and festivals. She planned to host volunteer events including stream clean-up, volunteer monitoring and assisting in stream assessment training. With regard to monitoring streams, the focus would be on macro invertebrates to determine pollution levels, with the findings reported to the NJDEP. She advised that her first scheduled clean-up was at Stag Hill in Mahwah, NJ the following weekend from 10 -4. Chairman Sangle welcomed Ms. Mastrodomis to West Milford, introduced the Commissioners, and reviewed some of the projects that they were involved with including trail plans, Autumn Lights Festival, Green Team/Sustainable Subcommittee, Lakes Committee liaison, GWL Commission liaison, Planning Board liaison, and Belchers Creek Testing. He invited Ms. Mastrodomis to attend the Commission meetings each month and asked her to assist with testing Belchers Creek for Nitrates and Phosphates.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

NJDEP NNL Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00: Ron Farr, Certified Forester, was not present for an update on the project, but a meeting would be held with the Township Administrator to review the project and outline what needs to be done to proceed.

Community Forestry Management Plan – Chairman Sangle advised that Dave Stires, Recycling Coordinator, was taken off of the Community Forestry Management Plan team and Shade Tree Committee. He will discuss this with the Administrator when they meet about the reforestation project.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Lakes Committee and Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Andy Abdul distributed minutes from the recent Lakes Committee meeting and reported that the Committee discussed the group insurance matter and were not pleased with the information they received. He noted that they also discussed septic maintenance and enforcement. Councilman Signorino commented that data entry needed to be completed, but he felt that many homeowners don't understand how the septic systems operate. Chairman Sangle noted that a consultant for the Township used to have a model to show how septic systems worked. He suggested that the Lakes Committee members attend a Council meeting about septic pumping regulations. The Commission discussed small fees to cover the cost of notices, getting training from neighboring communities who have active programs, and educating people on

septic maintenance. Gary Oppenheimer suggested posting a “you tube” video on the Township website on septic maintenance. Tim Dalton advised that a stream assessment training was conducted in Upper Greenwood Lake.

Open Space Committee: Chairman Sangle reported that he, Doug Ott, and Don Weise were in contact with Linda Glosinsky of the Land Conservancy. The Township cannot proceed with the Weaver Road property purchase if they cannot obtain clear title to the properties involved. Other potential open space properties were discussed and they could be purchased if the Township receives funding. Chairman Sangle noted that the intent is to review all options and present alternatives to the Township, but we need to get definitive direction from the Township.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reported on several No Further Action notices received from the NJDEP as well as those listed on the Commission’s agenda.

Green Team–Sustainable Subcommittee: Jennifer Easterbrook reported that a meeting will be held the following night to prepare for the Autumn Lights Festival. She reviewed some of the items that would be included in the festival including making tab bracelets, distribution of tote bags, and workshops. Other groups who will be involved in the Green Fest include WM Beautification and Recycling, NY-NJ Trail Conference, Economic Development, and Friends of Wallisch. Ms. Easterbrook stressed the need for assistance from Commissioners on the day of the event.

Beaver Dam at Environmental Boardwalk: Nothing new to report at this time.

Belchers Creek Testing: The Belchers Creek Testing will commence when a date and time has been determined by Andy Abdul, who is working to get the equipment calibrated.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Solar Project and the B.O.E.: The Commission reviewed the Draft letter to the Board of Education to advise that the Commission is available to assist if they are interested in installing solar on school properties, and recommended that the letter be mailed. Mr. Oppenheimer inquired if the new library will have solar panels installed, and Mr. Ott replied that they will not due to the cost involved. Tom Tamayne suggested that he contact NRG solar who may install at no cost.

2016 Meeting Dates: The Commission reviewed the meeting dates for 2016 and **approved** them on a **motion** by Chairman Sangle with a **second** by Tom Tamayne.

Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award: No update.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the May 4, 2015 Regular Meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were **unanimously approved** on a **motion** by Chairman Stephen Sangle and a **second** by Thomas Tamayne.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - The following correspondence items were reviewed by the Commission and filed:

Highlands Water Protection And Planning Act Correspondence

1. Highlands Exemption #10 received – the construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities by a State entity or local government unit - dated September 18, 2015, regarding the Proposed Replacement of the Footbridge at 1334 Greenwood Lake Tpk., Block 4502; Lot 2, at Long Pond Ironworks State Park.
2. Notification from the Highlands Council regarding Modules 2, 3, 7 and the Highlands Plan Conformance Amended Grant Agreement, transmitting CD’s to facilitate updates to Modules 2 and 7. The Highlands Council is providing a grant for up to \$25,000. for professional services in the preparation of module updates.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Copy of an application to the NJDEP, dated September 15, 2015, from Environmental Technology Inc. regarding a Letter of Interpretation and Line Verification Extension for Lipari, 42 Lone Pine Lane,

Block 5306; Lot 4.02 for the construction of a 4 bedroom s.f. house.

2. Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit and Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit Modification notification, dated September 23, 2015, received from the NJDEP regarding the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Wantage, Vernon and West Milford Townships. The modifications confirm the total amount of impacts as follows: Wetlands - 25.672 acres; Transition Areas – 56.016 acres; Riparian Zones – 63.347 acres; State Open Waters – 1.905 acres. This modification does not expand the amount of disturbance approved through the original permit, but clarifies reductions that occurred throughout the construction of the pipeline. All other conditions of the September 23, 2010 permit remain in effect and do not expand the permit beyond the expiration date of September 23, 2015.

3. Correspondence from the NJDEP – Division of Water Quality - Individual Groundwater Permitting Unit, dated September 22, 2015, received with reference Chelsea at Bald Eagle and United Water West Milford, regarding the construction of a 20-bed addition, noting that the 20 bed addition was incorporated into the original permitted design volume of sanitary sewage so a modification to the existing NJDESODGW permit is not required. The water level data from the existing disposal fields were reviewed and a determination has been made that no additional disposal area is required at this time.

4. Response Action Outcome, dated September 22, 2015, received from Kleinfelder for the former Exxon Facility #53139 at 4 Marshall Hill Road, Block 5701; Lot 3, advising that the remediation has been completed with regard to AOC-12, a former UGST system including one 6,000 gal unleaded gasoline, one 8,000 gal leaded gasoline, one 10,000 gal unleaded gasoline, and one 10,000 gal medium diesel fuel, and AOC-16, a former Waste Oil UST System including one 1,000 gal waste oil fiberglass-reinforced plastic UST (E5), two floor drains, associated fiberglass reinforced piping and associated appurtenances.

5. No Further Action correspondence received from the NJDEP, dated September 23, 2015, regarding 145 County Road, Block 101; Lot 4, for the removal of a 550 gal underground storage tank.

6. Notification received from the NJDEP Bureau of Dam Safety regarding the High Crest Lake Dam 2014 Inspection Report, which found the High Crest Lake Dam to be in POOR condition due to inadequate spillway capacity, with rehabilitation required to achieve full compliance with the Dam Safety Standards. High Crest Lake Lodge, Inc. is ordered to retain the services of a licensed professional engineer to prepare plans for the rehabilitation of the dam and submit a Dam Safety Permit Application addressing all measures to be undertaken to bring the dam into full compliance by January 31, 2016.

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received/Sent

1. Announcement from ANJEC regarding the 42nd Annual Environmental Congress on October 9, 2015, Raritan Valley Community college, Branchburg, NJ.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – David Ofshinsky from the W.M.M.U.A. reported that there were repairs made to the Crescent Park plant and the fields are working satisfactorily.

Doug Ott reported that a small amount of the algae at the Pettit Pond Dam by Bald Eagle Village had been raked over the dam, but it seems to be under control now.

Councilman Signorino thanked the Commissioners for their hard work and efforts for the Township. Chairman Sangle thanked him for attending and hoped that he would take some of the Commission's issues back to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the October 5, 2015 meeting was **adjourned** at **8:50p.m.** on a **motion** by Doug Ott and a **second** by Tim Dalton.

Approved: February 6, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary