

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

October 5, 2020

Virtual Meeting - Via Zoom

The October 5, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was held virtually via Zoom beginning at 7:00 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Dalton, Janet Little, David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: Don Weise.

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

ON GOING BUSINESS

ANJEC 2019 OSS Grant Project: Remaining funds from the grant will be used for purchasing chemical re-agents for on-going Belchers Creek testing.

Belchers Creek Testing: Commissioner Jim Rogers reported that the testing began earlier this month and the equipment was distributed to the Commissioners for testing at their convenience, and he advised that the results that were reached were somewhat alarming. Commissioner Doug Trainor noted that the nitrate expiration date was October 2019 and was not sure if that contributed to the unusual results or if the samples were contaminated. The Commissioners noted that the tests have been taken in the same locations. Mr. Trainor observed that fresher nitrate re-agents should be purchased. The Commissioners would test several new locations to compare the readings. Mr. Rogers advised that he would get the information for ordering new packets of the nitrate re-agents from Hanna. Chairman Stephen Sangle recommended that the Commissioners use both the Hanna and the Hach testing equipment to compare results. Chairman Sangle suggested that the Pinecliff Lake side of the dam should be tested, and they could try to determine how much of the nitrates are being settled out in Pinecliff Lake. He opined that Pinecliff Lake acts like a bowl and the nitrates are absorbed by the vegetation, adding that there often are a significant amount of phosphates and nitrates in the lake. He requested that the values before the dam should be determined. He also noted that the storm drains are emptying into Pinecliff Lake. The Commission concurred that testing at Pinecliff Lake should be at three locations including tests at either end of the lake, and one in the middle, to be taken before a rain occurrence. Mr. Rogers commented that on August 26, 2020 there was discharge from Bald Eagle Village, which may be the cause of the high readings. Chairman Sangle would be in contact with Don Weise to test at Pinecliff Lake, and Tom Tamayne would contact Suez about the work that they are involved in for the Suez plant at Bald Eagle Village. Chairman Sangle also requested that the new testing equipment purchased through the 2019 OSS ANJEC Grant be used to compare the test results.

Shade Tree Committee: Tim Dalton had no update from the Township regarding either the Shade Tree Committee or the Community Forestry Management Plan.

Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: No update at this time.

NJDEP NNL Forestry Grant Project Closeout: No update was available at this time. Chairman Sangle suggested that a memo be sent to the Administrator regarding these matters or that Tim Dalton follow up with him for an update.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Janet Little advised that Jonathan Brett will be the Co-chair for the Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission. She noted that the GWLC was under pressure with all the issues involving the lake. They will be proposing a boat ramp for Brown's Point which will be either privately operated or run by a company such as LL Bean. Browns Point is owned by the County of Passaic and maintained by the Township. The GWLC will approach the marinas for assistance in funding for this project. She noted that the GWLC had issues with swans, but there was opposition from the public on proposals to deal with the swans.

Lakes Committee: Jim Rogers reported that there was a zoom meeting of the Lakes Committee on September 21, 2020, and Ed Steines, DPW Director, was the guest speaker. They discussed an incident with one of the Township's sweepers that was using Upper Greenwood Lake as a site for dumping the road grit accumulated in the sweeper. Mr. Steines reviewed the procedures that would be followed, which include the sweeper returning to the depot to clean and empty the debris. In years past, the sweeper would drop the debris and grits on sections of the Township roads and the DPW trucks would collect the debris and dispose of it at the depot. Mr. Rogers reported that Mr. Steines reviewed the winterizing of the roads and noted that brine would be expanded to all areas in the Township, with grits used on the steep roadways. They would avoid areas near the lakes when using grits. With regard to Upper Mt. Laurel Lake, Mr. Rogers reported that the Township would be getting quotes on safe chemicals to deal with the overgrowth and vegetation before the year's end. Tim Dalton commented that UGL has a program to treat their lake chemically, and it works well. Chairman Sangle observed that about 25 years ago, as a past president of the Pinecliff Lake Association, there was an issue with grits going into the storm drains and into the lake. The Township Engineer at the time brought backhoes to areas of the lake and removed the grits and recycled them in the Township.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reported that he did not receive anything new with regard to contamination issues.

Open Space Committee: Chairman Sangle advised that the Revised Open Space Plan would probably not be ready until December for the Commission to review. The Commission will review it first, and send it back to the Land Conservancy for possible revisions, and then it will be presented to the Governing Body, which may not be until January or February. Then it will be referred to the Planning Board for review and recommendation to include into the Township Master Plan, and then back to the Governing Body.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee: No update at this time.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Tim Dalton suggested that monies remaining in the Commission's budget be used to purchase educational displays for use at the Autumn Lights Festival and other events. Doug Trainor commented that there was a display for the public explaining how watersheds work at one of the Farmers Markets, and it was very educational.

The Commission reviewed the information provided by Jim Rogers on a remote controlled solar powered hydro rake for removing vegetation for water bodies. The process would involve chemical treatment, followed by hydro raking. The cost would be approximately \$13,000., but Mr. Rogers will get more information on total costs. The Commission would keep this in mind for upcoming grants.

The Commission requested that the Administration be contacted about maintaining and repairing the Environmental Boardwalk. Jim Rogers will attend the Council meeting if it is on

their agenda for discussion. The Commission concurred that they would give this a little more time before following up.

MINUTES

The minutes from the September 14, 2020 Commission meeting were **unanimously approved** by all members present at the meeting on a **motion** by Jim Rogers and a **second** by Tim Dalton.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

The Commission reviewed the following correspondence:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. Highlands Applicability Determination (HAD) Application copy submitted by Kleinfelder, dated September 9, 2020, for the City of Newark, Dept of Water and Sewer Utilities, regarding the Pequannock Water Treatment Plant, Block 14102; Lot 1, requesting Exemption #11 and a Major Highlands Development Determination for process and operational improvements to the Water Treatment Plant.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. NJDEP Suspected Hazardous Discharge notice, dated September 14, 2020, regarding 123 Kitchell Lake Dr., Block 4801; Lot 17, for removal of a 1000 gal UST, with clean-up pending.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of a soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated August 17, 2020, for the Township of West Milford Farrell Soccer Field Rehab Phase II, Lycosky Drive, Block 6002; Lot 28.02.

2. ANJEC Environmental Congress – Thursday and Friday On-Line Sessions - October 2020.

3. 95th Annual Shade Tree Conference – Oct. 19 – 23.

4. Sustainable Jersey News.

5. NY-NJ Trail Conference E-Walker News From the Trail – Recent Loop Trails, 09-25-20.

6. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of a soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated August 26, 2020, for the Westbrook Preserve Restoration Project, owned by The Land Conservancy, regarding 1228 Westbrook Road, Blocks 5008; Lot 1, 2 and Block 5101; Lots 3, 4.

7. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of a soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated September 23, 2020, for grading at Holy Institution Panagia Soumela, Inc, 253 Marshall Hill Road, Block 6404; Lot 10.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the October 5, 2020 regular meeting held via Zoom was **adjourned** at 8:20 p.m. on a **motion** by Chairman Stephen Sangle and a **second** by Tim Dalton.

Approved: November 2, 2020

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary