

**Township of West Milford  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 7, 2013**

The October 7, 2014 regular meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:34 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Andrew Abdul (7:41), Timothy Dalton, Gary Oppenheimer, Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Don Weise, Alternates Jennifer Easterbrook.  
Absent: Chairman Stephen Sangle, Lucas Slott.  
Also Present: Ron Farr.

Douglas Ott presided over the meeting in the absence of Chairman Stephen Sangle. He advised that a quorum was present to conduct this meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS** – None.

**APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

**JAMES KACHLER**

**Bulk Variance #ZB-08-13-08**

Block 14901; Lot 18

73 Timber Lane; R-4

**Seeking:** 24' x 28' attached garage to existing single family dwelling, with a variance requested for side yard setback, where 60 feet is required, 44.4 feet exists and 16.2 feet is proposed, and a variance requested for rear yard setback where 125 feet is required, 98 feet is existing, and 97.4 feet is proposed.

The Commission reviewed the above Zoning Board of Adjustment application for a 24'x28' garage addition to an existing single-family residence. Following review of the plans and documents submitted, the Commission determined that there were no apparent environmental concerns with the application.

**GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW**

**2007 GWL NPS 319(h) Grant:** Acting Chairman Douglas Ott advised that an update from Dr. Fred Lubnow was provided at the September 2013 Environmental Commission meeting.

**NJDEP Green Communities \$3000.00 Grant for Community Forestry Management Plan:** Ron Farr, Certified Forester, provided an brief update for the Commission, reporting that the Forestry Committee met prior to this meeting and will have a draft plan available for the next EC meeting in November. He required some information from the Commission's Secretary before completing the draft, but advised that he will email a copy to the Commissioners with track changes noted.

**NJDEP NNL (No Net Loss) Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00:** Ron Farr reported that he needed a signed copy of the grant agreement and will begin to work on this grant project. He also advised that he would not be available for the November Environmental Commission meeting, but would communicate with the Commission via email.

**Recreational Trails Signage Grant:** Don Weise reported that all the signs were installed and they would be looking for future grants for signage to identify not only the trails, but other important features as well. He noted that there were kiosks at some trails that explained various features of the trails.

**2006 (Re-purposed) Recreational Trails Grant for Environmental Boardwalk:** Mr. Ott commented that he understood that the project had been completed, but he had not visited the site recently.

**2010 ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant-Trails Master Plan:** Mr. Ott reported that the Trails Plan Committee had met prior to the meeting and Tim Dalton advised that the meeting went very well and he would coordinate the information before their next meeting of the Committee. Mr. Ott noted that another meeting was proposed for the following week and would be in contact with the Trails Committee via email.

**ON GOING BUSINESS**

**Lakes Committee:** Andy Abdul reported that the Lakes Committee had a guest speaker, Richard Buchtman, a certified arborist, who made a presentation at their September meeting regarding invasive species. Mr. Buchtman warned the Lakes Committee members about the Emerald Ash Borer that has been located in neighboring states, and cautioned against transporting firewood from New York, especially due to our close

proximity to the state border. Mr. Abdul reported that the Lakes Committee also discussed the difficulty with collecting lakes dues from some of the resident members.

**Open Space Subcommittee:** Acting Chairman Doug Ott reported that the Open Space Committee had a tentative meeting on October 14, 2013, and were trying to coordinate dates and times with Linda Glosinsky from The Land Conservancy of NJ. Don Weise reported that the NY/NJ Trails Conference has a dedicated committee for Open Space and they are looking for a representative from New Jersey for their committee. He also advised that the Trails Conference has a revolving land acquisition and stewardship fund for open space, and explained that the fund may be used for negotiations and closing fees, and if the land is sold to the state, the money is refunded into the stewardship fund. He further commented that there are many NJ sites that need assistance and the fund could possibly be a source for financial support. Mr. Ott asked that this information be discussed at the next Open Space Committee meeting.

**Environmental Contamination Issues:** Commissioner Thomas Tamayne reported that he contacted the Health Officer about various contaminated sites in West Milford and also to inquire about the status of the OPRA request that Mr. Fitzpatrick said he filed with the state. Mr. Tamayne was advised that there was no response from the DEP regarding the OPRA, but Mr. Fitzpatrick did report that he had received a copy of a No Further Action Letter about one property in West Milford. The Commission's Secretary advised that the Planning Department receives the same information from the NJDEP that the Health Dept. receives regarding contaminated sites, No Further Action letters, etc, and the correspondence on the Environmental Commission's agenda lists all the documents received in detail. Mr. Fitzpatrick informed Mr. Tamayne that he has one of his employees from Bloomfield, the city where he also is employed as a Health Officer, working in West Milford, and she is supposed to provide him with monthly updates on contaminated sites in our Township.

**Green Team–Sustainable Jersey:** Tom Tamayne reported that the Sustainable West Milford (and Green Team) meeting was cancelled the last two months and he had nothing to report.

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline:** No update at this time.

### **NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS**

**2013 Earth Hour City Challenge to Commit to 100% Renewable Energy** – Tom Tamayne researched the issue and reported that this Earth Hour Challenge was a project to encourage large cities to use 100% renewable energy, and although the renewable energy can be purchased at a cost, considering the financial climate and the size of the Township, it is not something that West Milford would be inclined to commit to. It was suggested that the Green Team may look into this further.

**Autumn Lights Festival** – Tim Dalton reported that the Autumn Lights Festival organizer's intent was to consolidate groups that were related and he located the Environmental Commission near other complimentary organizations. The event will take place on October 12, 2013, from 10 am to 5 pm. and Luke Slott, Tim Dalton, Tom Tamayne, and Andy Abdul will be present to assist. Former Commissioner Gillian Hemstead will return the EC banners and someone will contact Steve Sangle if a tent is needed.

On another matter, Tim Dalton advised that he planned to attend the ANJEC Environmental Congress in October and would email the Commission's Secretary to prepare a purchase order for him.

Gary Oppenheimer advised the Commission that he was being honored with the prestigious Points of Light award, dedicated to those individuals who work to address serious social issues. Founder of Ample Harvest, the award will be presented to Mr. Oppenheimer at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C., along with three other individuals, including NJ Governor Chris Christie.

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the July 2013 Regular Meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were unanimously approved on a motion by Tim Dalton and Gary Oppenheimer.

### **The Commission reviewed the Correspondence received:**

#### **Highlands Water Protection And Planning Act Correspondence**

1. Notice from Conklin Associates received October 1, 2013 that a Highlands Applicability Determination Application was submitted to the NJDEP for the Awosting Assoc. New Community Clubhouse at Long Pond Road, Bl 4105; Lt 1.

2. Notice from Charles Aikey, dated October 1, 2013, advising that he was applying to the NJDEP for a waiver for property located at 144 Wesley Drive, Block 9501; Lot 19.02, per NJAC 7:1B from Rule 7:14A-22.8 (a) 11 and any other related rules to be permitted to complete previously approved subdivision.
3. Notice from the NJDEP dated September 24, 2013 regarding Verizon Wireless-Ringwood 4 at 750 Westbrook Road, Block 4701; Lot 61, advising that the Highlands Act Exempt/WQMP-Not Addressed Determination has not changed with the new site plan submission on August 14, 2013, and all stipulations from the determination letter of April 12, 2013 still apply.

### **NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence**

1. Notice dated September 25, 2013 from James and Linda Antonucci, 270 Cherry Ridge Road, Block 101; Lot 29, that an application was being made to the NJDEP for a Letter of Interpretation, Line Verification, Transition Area Waiver, Averaging Plan and Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #10A for the construction of a single family dwelling, garage, septic system, well, and driveway on 31 acres.
2. Flood Hazard Area Applicability Determination dated September 17, 2013 received for Lisa Fleming regarding a proposed extension to an existing dock along Beaver Lake off West Shore Road, advising that a Flood Hazard Area permit is not required.
3. Notice dated September 30, 2013 from McKittrick Engineering that Myhren Builders is making application to the NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval for Block 11001; Lot 12 for the construction of a septic system that is not in conformance with NJAC 7:9A et seq. with the proposed system to service a reconstructed dwelling with no expansion or change in use.
4. Notice dated September 30, 2013 from McKittrick Engineering that Paul Contino is making application to the NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval for 60 Lake Park Terrace, Block 4202; Lots 7 & 8, for the construction of a septic system that is not in conformance with NJAC 7:9A et seq. with the proposed system to service a reconstructed dwelling with no expansion or change in use.
5. Notice from the Reynolds Group Inc. dated September 19, 2013 advising that an application for a Transition Area Waiver – Averaging Plan has been submitted to the NJDEP for Chelsea at Bald Eagle Senior Residences for approval to perform work within the transition area including earthwork/grading associated with the proposed construction of the building addition.
6. Application for a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #10A received September 17, 2013 for Vincent Lanza regarding Block 206; Lot 14.02, 28 Lookover Road, for the installation of a driveway and construction of a new single family dwelling.

### **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

1. ANJEC 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Congress – Planning in a Changing Environment, October 19, 2013, Middlesex County College, Edison, NJ; ANJEC Report Autumn 2013; ANJEC News – 10-02-13
2. Pequannock Post – Volume 18, Issue 5, October 2013
3. HEPSCD - Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification, dated August 19, 2013, received for the proposed new Township Library 's septic system disposal bed, with certification valid for 3.5 years.
4. HEPSCD - Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification, dated August 19, 2013, received for PSEG Branchburg-Ramapo Static Wire Replacement at various blocks and lots within West Milford Township and Ringwood Borough.
5. Notice of program on “Pipeline Safety,” October 23, 2013, The Knoll Country Club West, Parsippany, NJ 07054, hosted by local pipeline and gas distribution companies.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was **adjourned** at **8:30 p.m.** on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and a **second** by Tom Tamayne.

Approved: February 3, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary