

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

November 2, 2015

The November 2, 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 (7:36), Tim Dalton (7:35), Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Alternate #1 Jennifer Easterbrook, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: Gary Oppenheimer, Don Weise.

Also Present: Ron Farr, Clint Smith.

Alternate Member Jennifer Easterbrook was requested to sit in for one of the absent Commissioners. Chairman Sangle advised that a quorum was present to conduct this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS - None.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

NJDEP NNL Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00: Chairman Sangle reported that Ron Farr was advised by the Township Administration regarding the documents that were needed to advance the project. The \$3,000. payment for the Community Forestry Management Plan is being held by the Township until the proper documentation is received from the State. He noted that it appears that the original signed grant agreement for the \$620,197. grant may have been mailed to Mr. Farr's home address instead of the Township. Ron Farr, Certified Forester, reported that he met with various officials to discuss the details for the reforestation grant project. He still needs to meet with the DEP and Recreation Department about certain planting locations. Chairman Sangle noted that any tree plantings around the Shop Rite site would be installed by Shop Rite since that is their responsibility as the property owner. Chairman Sangle requested that Mr. Farr report each month to the Commission regarding the work he has completed so that the minutes can reflect an account of his services for the Council and Administration. Mr. Farr requested that a Reforestation Subcommittee meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 4:00 pm. The Secretary will coordinate the room reservation with the Administrator's office.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Lakes Committee: Andy Abdul reported that the Lakes Committee had a speaker on fisheries present at their prior meeting.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Andy Abdul advised that the GWL Commission would be holding hearings on the lake drawdown, including if they will proceed with one, how much of a drawdown will it encompass, and when it would occur.

On the matter of tree planting, Mr. Abdul reported that he had spoken to the contractor who planted trees on the TGP so he could ascertain a figure on the survival rate of the trees. He noted that no ash or hemlock trees were planted, but some of the species used were dogwood, red maple, sugar maple and high bush blueberries. Regarding tree planting on the pipeline, Mr. Abdul was advised that they would be planted 25 feet away from the actual pipeline.

With reference to chestnut trees, Mr. Abdul spoke to Celeste Hampton of the local 4H Club regarding the use of chestnut trees in the reforestation plan. He assumed that they would be hybrids, bred with Chinese chestnut trees over several generations, essentially genetically modified species. Ron Farr commented that he also spoke to Ms. Hampton regarding the planting of chestnut and sugar maple along the Lincoln Hill Senior complex.

Open Space Committee: Chairman Sangle reported that the Weaver Road property may still be in the works, but he has received no formal word regarding the status at this time.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reviewed some of the contaminated sites reports including No Further Action letters received under correspondence.

Green Team–Sustainable Subcommittee: Tim Dalton advised that he has volunteered to go to Greenwood Lake, NY to review their process for maintaining current septic data.

Beaver Dam at Environmental Boardwalk: Chairman Sangle advised that everything appears in order at the Environmental Boardwalk site.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Autumn Lights Festival: Jennifer Easterbrook reported that all went well with the ALF festival. There was some miscommunication about combining several volunteer groups in one location, so the EC was the only group at the site. She noted that there were sufficient volunteers for the day, but more free materials needs to be prepared for next year’s festival. Ms. Easterbrook commented that the arts and crafts area for the EC/Green Team went very well. She will solicit more groups for next year so that it can be more of a “green fest.” She also noted that there were a lot of inquiries about septic systems.

Belchers Creek Testing Equipment: Andy Abdul reported that he needed to set a date for later in the month to calibrate the instruments before the testing could begin. He will be in contact with all those who indicated that they were interested in assisting with the Belchers Creek testing.

Solar Projects at W.M. School: A letter was sent to the local school district offering the EC’s assistance with their proposed and publicized solar projects within the school district. No response has been received. Tom Tamayne commented that the school was taking a different path and having a company install and receive credit for the units.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 1, 2015 Regular Meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were **unanimously approved** on a **motion** by Thomas Tamayne and a **second** by Chairman Stephen Sangle.

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

Highlands Water Protection And Planning Act Correspondence

1. Highlands Exemption #4 and Water Quality Management Plan Consistency notification, dated October 15, 2015, regarding the proposed Redevelopment of the existing Westbrook Park, Block 11101; Lot 1, reducing the overall impervious surface by 3,479 sq. ft. (net).
2. Highlands Exemption #4 and Water Quality Management Plan Consistency notification, dated October 14, 2015, regarding the proposed redevelopment of the existing Nosenzo Pond Park, Block 9302; Lot 16, expanding the impervious surface by 421 sq. ft. (net).
3. Notification from the NJDEP, Division of Land Use Regulation, dated October 14, 2015, that the application for a Highlands Applicability Determination for Block 411; Larchmont Drive, regarding the construction of a 5 bedroom residential dwelling, has been withdrawn by the applicant Buddy Forest.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Copy of a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #6, dated Sept. 3, 2015, for John & Stacy Clarke, 147 Maple Road, regarding filling 1,864 sq. ft. of an isolated freshwater wetlands for the replacement and expansion of an existing septic system with associated grading. Wetlands affected by this permit are of intermediate resource value and the standard transition area/buffer required adjacent to these wetlands is 50 ft.
2. No Further Action and Covenant Not To Sue notification, dated September 10, 2015, received from the NJDEP, regarding the removal of a 550 Gallon #2 Heating Oil UGST for Block 14501; Lot 12, 57 Blakely Lane.
3. Copy of LURP, Freshwater Wetlands G.P. 1, and Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit applications for the NJDEP, dated Sept. 30, 2015, from the Upper Greenwood Lake Property Owners Association, regarding the proposed Clubhouse Bulkhead Removal and Replacement project at 435 Lakeshore Drive, Block 2007; Lots 9.01 & 9.02.

4. Copy of a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit and Flood Hazard Area Verification, dated October 1, 2015, received from the NJDEP regarding the construction of a single family dwelling by Environmental Const.Co./Vincent Lanza, Block 4301; Lot 17, 81 Forest Lake Drive.
5. Correspondence from the NJDEP Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control, dated October 8, 2015, to the Bald Eagle Village Condo Association, regarding the Pettet Pond Dam, requesting the following for the Dam Safety application: 1. engineering calculations justifying the proposed riprap sizing and the depth of the riprap; a multistage granular filter or crushed stone with geotextile filter fabric added to the riprap to prevent erosion of embankment fill through the riprap during overtopping events, with armoring protecting all areas subject to flow; 2. specifications to be submitted for grout around the ductile iron pipe, or consideration of a hydrophilic waterstop at the interface. The NJDEP advised that the proposed repairs will be an improvement to the dam but will not bring the dam into compliance with Dam Safety Standards due to inadequate spillway capacity.
6. Copy of an application to the NJDEP for a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #2 and Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit, dated September 3, 2015, received from Langan Associates, regarding Orange and Rockland Utilities "Union Valley Road/Marshall Hill Road/West Shore Road" Utility Improvements.
7. Copy of an application for a General Permit #1 to the NJDEP, dated October 19, 2015, received from CH2M for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., LLC, regarding the regular maintenance activities along the TGP network within Bergen, Passaic and Sussex Counties.
8. Notification received from Motiva Enterprises, LLC, dated September 30, 2015, for Block 14604; Lot 1, 2731 Route 23, PMG NJ LLC, advising that an environmental investigation is being conducted with regard to former retail gasoline service station operations, identifying petroleum and non-petroleum related contaminants in groundwater and/or soil at the site. Clean up is being conducted in accord with NJDEP requirements.

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received/Sent

1. HEPSCD Certification, dated Sept. 18, 2015, regarding the Rockland Electric Union Valley and Marshall Hill Utility Improvements with total land disturbed to be 0.91 acres – the plan is valid for 3.5 years.
2. HEPSCD, dated Sept. 3, 2015, for Roman Szymansky, Block 11701; Lot 4, 4 Lake Isle Drive, for the construction of a S.F. dwelling with total land disturbance to be 0.35 acres – the plan is certified for 3.5 years.
3. Notification from the Township of Hardyston, dated October 2, 2015, advising of a public hearing on October 22, 2015 regarding an amendment to their Master Plan to adopt the Highlands Preservation Area Master Plan Conformance Element.
4. Notification from the Borough of Butler Planning Board, received October 23, 2015, advising that a public hearing will be held on November 12, 2015 regarding the 2015 Periodic Re-Examination of the Master Plan that was adopted in August 2004.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Clint Smith, Hewitt, NJ commented that there was a large amount of asphalt in the Township with roads and large parking lots being paved with blacktop. Chairman Sangle noted that all impervious surfaces have to be designated by the engineers per the Highlands, but pointed out that Shop Rite will have islands with trees when the parking lot is upgraded with the new approved site plan. He commented that the County and State do not have to comply with local design concepts that include more trees and green spaces, and observed that continuing sprawl with paved roads throughout the Township may be the result of those residents who opposed the proposed Town Center concept.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Chairman Sangle requested that the Commissioners respond to the Secretary whether or not they will be attending the scheduled meetings to insure that we have a quorum.

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the November 2, 2015 meeting was **adjourned** at **8:20p.m.** on a **motion** by Thomas Tamayne and a **second** by Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Approved: January 4, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary