

**Township of West Milford  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**November 2, 2020**

**Virtual Meeting - Via Zoom**

The November 2, 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:** Janet Little, David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Thomas Tamayne,  
Douglas Trainor, Don Weise, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

**Absent:** Tim Dalton

**PRESENTATIONS – HIGHLANDS SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Alison Kopsco, Project Planner from J. Caldwell and Associates, was present to address the Commission regarding the Highlands Sustainable Economic Development Plan, funded through a grant with the NJ Highlands Council. Ms. Kopsco explained that the plan would be a document containing the best practices for sustainable economic viability for the Township. She noted that she was in the process of meeting with several Township committees and organizations following two surveys that were provided for residents and business owners to complete and submit. She expressed concern that more businesses haven't responded to the survey (only about three), but was satisfied with the large number of responses from the residents. She inquired if the Commissioners had additional suggestions for locations for business opportunities. Don Weise suggested Newfoundland, which was just off of Route 23 and accessible. Ms. Kopsco advised that she had spoken to several organizations and the locations for possible economic opportunities included Belchers Creek, Route 23, and connectivity between different sections of the Township. Chairman Sangle commented that the area past West Milford Lake and Town Center would be suited for sidewalks to allow accessibility. Mr. Weise suggested that the entire business triangle could be connected. With regard to the current bike path, Mr. Weise noted that the bicycle path is merely a shoulder of the road.

Ms. Kopsco inquired if the Environmental Commission worked closely with the business community, and Chairman Sangle observed that the Commission has been involved with the annual Autumn Lights festival since its inception. Mr. Weise requested copies of other towns' sustainable economic development plans for the Commission to review. Ms. Kopsco noted that the consensus from the surveys is that there should be better communication between the various organizations in the Township. Doug Trainor suggested that the Rails to Trails concept be considered for the SED plan, and the Commission referred to the abandoned train line at the beginning of Green Pond Road. Ms. Kopsco reviewed some suggestions from the surveys, including boat and kayak rentals, and Janet Little commented that the Greenwood Lake Commission was investigating the establishment of a boat ramp at Brown's Point to bring more activity to the southern end of Greenwood Lake. Chairman Sangle remarked that the plan should focus on the environmental attributes of the Township, including using Belchers Creek for eco-tourism. Mr. Weise noted that the NY-NJ Trail Conference has expanded the trail network and made them more "user friendly" to encourage moderate hiking. He also noted that there is a movement to get zoning at trail heads to permit vendors to serve food, etc. He noted that this is occurring in Vermont and Colorado. Ms. Kopsco requested information on

the surveys of the properties along Belchers Creek. Chairman Sangle suggested that she forward a copy of a sustainable plan that had been prepared for another town so that the Commission can be familiar with the format and the type of report being prepared under the Highlands grant. The Commission thanked Ms. Kopsco for attending the meeting.

**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:** Chairman Sangle reported that the new registration for the Jon Boat has been received. Commissioner Tim Dalton had offered previously to get his State boating license over the winter months and then he will be able to assist with testing along Belchers Creek. Testing will continue along Belchers Creek as long as the weather permits. Doug Trainor offered to conduct an inventory of the materials and testing supplies that the Commission has, and determine what supplies will be needed to continue testing.

**Shade Tree Committee:** No update at this time.

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

**NJDEP NNL Forestry Grant Project Closeout:** No update was available at this time.

**Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission:** Janet Little advised that the GWLC had cancelled their meeting for October and no report was available.

**Lakes Committee:** Jim Rogers had provided the minutes from the Lakes Committee meeting in October.

**Environmental Contamination Issues:** Tom Tamayne reported on several contamination issues that he received and those listed on the agenda.

**Open Space Committee:** Chairman Sangle noted that there was a property near Dockerty Hollow Road that the Township was auctioning that we received an inquiry about from The Land Conservancy. Commissioner Don Weise reported that there is a new Hikers parking lot with signs posted by the Westbrook Preserve.

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

**NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS**

The Commissioners discussed the beaver issue at the Environmental Boardwalk and commended the Public Works Dept. for all of the work that they performed to assist with clearing brush and overgrowth, as well as disassembling the beaver dam that was flooding the boardwalk. Commissioner Tom Tamayne had been in touch with the NJDEP regarding a permit for trapping the beavers, and noted that he will follow up on this to see if a permit can be issued since this is the time of year that it can be done. Mr. Tamayne was asked to get the procedures that need to be filed for the Township to obtain a license for a trapper to be engaged. He was also requested to contact Ed Steines, the Public Works Director.

**MINUTES**

The minutes from the October 5, 2020 Commission meeting were **unanimously approved** by all members present at the meeting on a **motion** by Tom Tamayne and a **second** by Dave Ofshinsky.

## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

The Commission reviewed the following correspondence:

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

1. NJ Highlands Council Grant Award - Regional Watershed Based Assessment - Not to exceed \$200,000 - West Milford intends to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the watersheds surrounding 22 private and public lakes in the municipality. In this first phase of a two-phase project, the scope of work is focused on historic data review; an examination of hydrologic/pollutant loads; a pollutant removal analysis; and stream/watershed water quality analyses.
2. NJ Highlands Council Grant Award - Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping - Not to exceed \$70,900 - Proposed project to develop a single Geographic Information System (GIS) map of the complete stormwater infrastructure system and a database of stormwater information for the entire Township. The project will enable West Milford to fully meet its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit requirements while building a comprehensive database that will assist in future management and maintenance of the system.

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

1. Correspondence from Dynamic Engineering dated October 14, 2020, on behalf of Kingwood Flex (formerly Belchers Run) advising of a Treatment Works Approval (TWA) application to the NJDEP for the construction of an individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal System at 1590-1610 Union Valley Road, Block 6401; Lot 1. A copy of the application is on file with the Township Health Dept.
2. Correspondence from DuBois & Associates, dated October 16, 2020, on behalf of Kingwood Flex LLC, advising that an application has been filed with the NJDEP for a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit for Block 6401; Lots 1 & 3, for authorization of regulated activities in a flood hazard area for a proposed 5,449 SF addition to an existing commercial addition with modifications to the existing parking area.
3. Response Action Outcome (RAO) notification received from Fennelly Environmental Associates, LLC, dated October 12, 2020, received for Hydraulic Manifolds USA, 264 Marshall Hill Road, Block 6002; Lot 27, ID#748122, advising that the remediation has been complete.
4. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge notice received from the NJDEP, dated October 17, 2020, regarding the removal of a 550 gallon UST at 24 Oak Drive, Block 16304; Lot 5, with clean-up pending. NJDEP Case # 20-10-16-1044-48.
5. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge notice received from the NJDEP, dated October 6, 2020, regarding a violation for exceeding ammonia levels at the 1290 Macopin Rd., Block 10202; Lot 4, Highview Waste Water Treatment Plant – results indicate 7.40 mg/l and maximum allowed is 6.0 mg/l. NJDEP Case # 20-10-05-1216-55.
6. NJDEP Permit No. 20-0240, dated October 5, 2020, advising of a Treatment Works Approval for YMCA of Montclair, 131 Germantown Road, Block 14108; Lot 6, for the construction and operation of a proposed on-site treatment and disposal system for an existing 350 person seasonal day camp.
7. Correspondence received from ADR Environmental, dated October 19, 2020, regarding a Classification Exception Area/Well Restriction Area Fact Sheet for 3520 Route 23, Stockholm, NJ 07460, Block 16901; Lot 2 for Trimethylbenzene (200) and Total VOC TIC's 623).
8. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge notice received from the NJDEP, dated October 28, 2020, regarding the removal of a 550 gallon UST at 32 Red Barn, Block 9102; Lot 8, with clean-up pending. NJDEP Case # 20-10-27-1420-46.

9. Dam Safety Inspection Report received from the NJDEP, dated October 5, 2020, advising that the Carpi Lake Dam, Morsetown Road, was found in Satisfactory condition with recommended maintenance permitted.

10. HEPSCD - Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District – certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated July 27, 2020, for the Granatell Pole Barn, 1735 Union Valley Rd, Block 6902; Lot 32.

11. HEPSCD - Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District – certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated June 30, 2020, for Drew Boshart S.F.D., 39 Virginia Lane, Block 10002; Lot 3.

12. HEPSCD - Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District – certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated July 7, 2020, for McElroy S.F.D. Demo and Rebuild, 62 Passaic Drive, Block 2509; Lot 6.

13. HEPSCD - Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District – certification of the soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated June 30, 2020, for Koeppel S.F.D. Demo and Rebuild, 17 Mary Street, Block 11001; Lot 12.

### **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

1. ANJEC News – October.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the November 2, 2020 regular meeting held via Zoom was **adjourned** at 7:50 p.m. on a **motion** by Doug Trainor and a **second** by Don Weise.

Approved: February 1, 2021

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary