

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 3, 2008

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Stephen Sangle followed by a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Andrew Abdul, Douglas Ott, Irene Smith, Bernie Stapleton, Alternates MaryEllen Gabay, David Watson Hallowell, GIS Specialist Robert Sparkes.

Absent: Chairman Stephen Sangle, Gillian Hemstead, Timothy Metcalf.

Douglas Ott acted as Chairman for the meeting. The alternates were appointed to sit in for the regular members who were absent.

PRESENTATIONS:

West Milford High School Green Team – Belchers Creek Projects

Members of the High School Green Team, led by advisor Norma Bozenmayer, were present to speak to the Commission about some of their projects. Photos were distributed and a description of various efforts to remediate some of the pollution in Belchers Creek was presented by the students. They reviewed their water sampling techniques and cleanup efforts, noting that the most pollution was discovered behind the A&P Shopping Center. They will continue their efforts in the spring. MaryEllen Gabay commented that the Scouts could become involved and assist in the cleanup efforts. Mrs. Bozenmayer noted that a canoe trip is planned for Belcher's Creek. The Commission discussed the issue of geese control, plantings to discourage the geese population, fencing, and vegetation for repelling the geese. Rob Sparkes commented that monies from several grants, including the 604b grant, may be available to assist the students in their efforts and he will look into this for them. Mr. Hallowell commented about the native brook trout and thought that this may be a breeding ground for the fish, adding that Sustainable West Milford may be able to contribute to some plantings. Mr. Ott noted that the beginning of Belcher's Creek starts near the fire tower off Stephen's Road. It was suggested that the Green Team make presentations to the Township Council and the Board of Education. Mrs. Bozenmayer will meet with Rob to follow up on some of the ideas presented.

APPLICATIONS

Rob Sparkes briefly reviewed two applications that are before the Planning Board for approval: Inserra/ShopRite Site Plan and Awosting Association Minor Subdivision. He noted the revisions of the plans submitted by ShopRite in response to prior public meetings with the Planning Board, and advised that that the prior comments of the Environmental Commission were addressed. With regard to the Awosting minor subdivision, a portion of Long Pond Road that was to be vacated will no longer be considered for vacation, and the lots have been reconfigured into smaller lots.

TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS - None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

604(b) OTWS Grant: Rob Sparkes reported that the piezometers QAPP have not been accepted yet, so we are seeking an extension. He and William Wallace, our Health Officer, went to Jefferson and met with Pat Rector and reviewed their database on septic system monitoring.

2004 Greenwood Lake 319H Grant and 2007 Stormwater Implementation 319H Grant: Rob Sparkes reported that work on the next phase may begin next spring.

Streetscape Grant: Mr. Sparkes advised that draft plans were received and he will meet with Rich McFadden and the County on this matter. The plans will then go to the Planning Board and Council for further comments. He also reported that the Office of Smart Growth check is deposited, the prior grant is closed, and we have \$22,000. to use for the streetscape project.

Urban Forestry Grants: Mr. Sparkes reported that the matter will be on the County Finance Committee agenda.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Community Forestry Plan: A Shade Tree Committee was discussed and Mr. Sparkes reviewed the distinction from the Environmental Commission, noting that the Shade Tree Committee has real jurisdictional powers. Various matters concerning Township tree plantings and maintenance were discussed.

Lakes Committee: It was reported that a presentation was made to the Township Council on the septic ordinance by the Lakes Committee.

Wetland Mitigation Project: Rob Sparkes distributed sign designs for review by the Commission.

Septic Maintenance: The septic maintenance ordinance was introduced by the Township Council. A memo was requested to be sent to the Council in support of this ordinance.

Open Space Committee: Rob Sparkes has been in contact with the Morris Land Conservancy and all is going well with land review for open space acquisition. Land behind Camp Hope has been recently acquired.

Autumn Lights Festival: 800 shower timers were distributed at Autumn Lights and all reported that it was a successful endeavor for the Commission. Rob Sparkes reported on the bus tours, noting that they were well received.

NEW BUSINESS

Rob Sparkes reviewed a municipal energy audit program that is available, sponsored by BPU, that will pay up to 75% of the initial costs. He reviewed the Johner Building retrofitting and planned move of several offices to this building. Bernie Stapleton expressed concern about duplicating the services of an energy audit and the costs to the taxpayers. David Hallowell noted that it is the Commission's responsibility to make the Township aware and to get the information we may have to them.

David Hallowell reported on an ANJEC seminar on green building and greening a master plan, noting the opportunity for West Milford to be a sustainable community, adding that it benefits the people, economy, and environment. Rob Sparkes commented on the NJ Green Building seminar at Rutgers and said that he will put something together for the Commission.

Rob Sparkes reported on a groundwater summit he attended with the Passaic River Groundwater Committee, noting that there are Highland's mechanisms for preservation of groundwater, adding that the summit suggested conformance committees.

Doug Ott reported that there is still an Energy Committee in existence and that letters for appointment have been sent out.

Mr. Sparkes reported on his contact with Larry Miller regarding NJ trails program. There was discussion about creating a signage program. He spoke to the NJ/NY Trails Conference and asked them to create designs, then signs for trailheads. He will email a map to the Commission.

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 8, 2008 Regular meeting would be on the December 8, 2008 meeting agenda for approval.

The following were noted and filed:

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT

1. Agency Determination notice received October 7, 2008 from the NJ DEP Highlands Office regarding Mountain Lakes Autowash, Block 6701; Lot 13, 1946 Union Valley Road – Highlands Act - Not Exempt, Water Quality Management Plan – Inconsistent.
2. Agency Determination notice received October 7, 2008 from the NJ DEP Highlands Office regarding Elaine Kramer, Block 4301; Lot 11, 715 East Shore Road – Highlands Act – Exempt #1, Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

3. Notice from NJ DEP Highlands Office received October 8, 2008 regarding James Rupeikis, Block 504; Lot 2, 2 Island Trail, with reference to rehabilitation of a stone wall in the Flood Hazard Area of Mount Laurel Lake – requirements satisfied, violation of February 26, 2007 has been resolved.
4. Notice from NJ DEP Highlands Office received October 8, 2008 regarding Greenwood Lake Marina, Block 3015; Lot 1, 538 Lakeside Road, with reference to General Permit #1 -repair to a currently serviceable structure, fill roadway, etc. - requirements satisfied, violation of December 20, 2007 has been resolved.
5. Notice of Intent to Cancel received on September 25, 2008 from the NJ DEP regarding a Highlands Applicability and Water Quality Management Plan Application for WV's Coffee Expresso, Block 16001; Lots 5 & 6, 3043 Route 23.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. Notice from NJ DEP to County of Passaic Engineer received October 8, 2008 regarding the Apshawa Main Dam and Apshawa Auxiliary Dam, requiring as-builts with project details and specifications to be submitted with the completion report by November 30, 2008.
2. Notice received from the Hudson-Essex-Passaic- Soil Conservation District regarding UGL POA Lake Bottom Restoration, Blocks 2901; 601; 704; 510, Lots NA, 2, 2, 1, 4, 12 - Certification of plan dated 08/27/08, subject to conditions, valid for 3 ½ years.
3. Notice received from the Hudson-Essex-Passaic- Soil Conservation District regarding Cedarbrook – Avalon SFD Demo & Rebuild, Block 1809; Lot 1.02, 20 Avalon Road – Certification of plan dated 02/01/07, subject to conditions, valid for 3 ½ years.
4. Notice received on October 9, 2008 from NJ DEP regarding Emil Krahulik, 863 Shore Road - No Further Action Letter and Covenant Not To Sue.
5. Notice and copy of an application for the NJ DEP, Land Use Regulation, by the Township of Jefferson for an FHA Individual Permit and FHA G.P. 6 for Improvements to Moosepac Wellhouse - the construction of a watermain in a riparian area.
6. Letter from the NJ DEP to DIO Satellite regarding an extension of time until December 31, 2008 for submission of revisions for the Carpi Lake Dam Emergency Action Plan.
7. Copy of plan to the NJ DEP from Ed Ostrowicz for a General Permit #2 for Block 4701; Lot 33.04, 350 Morsetown Road, designating the wetlands transition area.
8. Remedial Action Report Addendum from the NJ DEP for 546 Otterhole Road, requesting a Remedial Investigation Work Plan.
9. Remedial Action Report regarding 9 Taft Road, noting deficiencies in the Site Investigation Report with regard to monitoring well sampling.
10. Authorization for Freshwater Wetlands Permit #25 for Gerald Storms, 1043 Westbrook Road, Block 11104; Lot 2 regarding an on-site waste water treatment system.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. ANJEC Highlands Herald – October 15, 2008 – monthly email newsletter.
2. Letter from Mayor Bieri to Passaic County Administration dated October 20, 2008 regarding the Passaic County Urban Forestry Program grant, requesting reimbursement of the balance of \$6,635.00.
3. Highlands Conformance and Municipal Environmental Resource Inventories program, November 18, 2008, 7:30 – 9:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT - The Environmental Commission meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Approved: February 9, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,
Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary