

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 11, 2005

Chairman, Stephen Sangle, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Maryellen Gabay, Gillian Hemstead, Daniel Kochakji, Timothy Metcalf, Douglas Ott, Stephen Sangle, Bernie Stapleton. Alternate: Irene Smith. Planning Director: William Drew. GIS Specialist: Robert Sparkes

Absent: Alternate: Richard Castronova

APPLICATIONS

MARY BARRETT, MINOR Subdivision #0510-1974, Block 807; Lots 1 and 4, 2001 Clinton Road; LR Zone. Request for waiver of Environmental Impact Statement. After discussion the Commission recommended that the request for a waiver be denied and that the applicant provide a limited EIS delineating the wetlands and slopes. **MOTION** made by Steven Sangle, seconded by Gillian Hemstead, to deny the request. On voice vote all were in favor.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC., Use Variance #0540-0706, Preliminary & Final Site Plan #0520-0214, Block 12501; Lot 26, 666 Macopin Road; R-3 Zone. Request for waiver of Environmental Impact Statement. After discussion the Commission recommended that the request be denied. It was requested that a limited EIS be submitted addressing the impact of the increased tower height on scenic vistas, a noise assessment emanating from the proposed emergency generator, as well as provisions for containing fuel in the event of a rupture of the emergency generator. They further recommended that the existing camouflage on the tower be continued if the Board approves the extension, and that the proposed pad for the emergency generator be graveled and not impervious. **MOTION** made by Douglas Ott, seconded by Gillian Hemstead, to deny the waiver. On voice vote all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREA 3: Rob Sparkes reported that the group is now unofficial. Bernie Stapleton advised that networking is continuing. Next meeting is scheduled for September.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARDWALK: Discussion on bid proposal. Steven Sangle advised that a contractor had agreed to perform the work of repairing the boardwalk. The Commission approved the proposal subject to the County

transfer of funds. As soon as confirmation is received from Passaic County that the grant monies have been made available the contractor will be advised to proceed with the work. It is anticipated that this should be by the end of this month. The Commission requested he supply a list of materials so that the proper lengths of board could be ordered. They also advised that the self-tapping stainless steel screws should have a self-tapping head as well.

MOTION made by Steven Sangle, seconded by Douglas Ott, to award a contract to George Flader for work to repair the boardwalk. On voice vote all were in favor.

Mr. Sangle further noted that he had contacted the manufacturer of the boards in an effort to receive reimbursement for the damaged boards. Mr. Drew noted that a form was completed and submitted to the Trex Company on July 1, 2005. We are awaiting word on their decision.

GREENWOOD LAKE 319H GRANT: Rob Sparkes advised that he had attended the last meeting of the Bi-State Commission. The testing is scheduled to start soon. He submitted copies of a barometric survey of the lake, which was recently completed and a Greenwood Lake Stormwater Survey.

BELCHERS CREEK FECAL TESTING GRANT AND CANOE TRIP: Report and update. Rob Sparkes provided a slide show of the trip. Group identified the locations where streams enter the creek and where testing will be performed. He noted that the NJ District Water supply Commission, a representative of which was on the trip, would perform tests. He further advised that the Administrator had requested bids be obtained for the fecal testing. Five samples a month from eight different locations will be taken.

WEST MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL WATER MONITORING WEBSITE: No report. Mr. Sangle noted that he had provided literature concerning how to conserve water, which Mr. Sparkes advised had been put on the Township website.

NEW BUSINESS

STORM DRAIN STENCILING: Report from Matt Gabay on status of project. Matt Gabay, who has undertaken this project as part of a requirement for the Boy Scout Hornaday Award for distinguished service to natural resource conversation, advised the Commission regarding the status of the storm drain stenciling that he will be performing in the Pinecliff Lake neighborhood. He explained that he had made a site inspection of the drains and provided photographs of the condition of some of them. A stencil had been created and approved by the DEP. He indicated that he had contacted the local newspapers about the event, which is scheduled to begin in the next week, and also the Pinecliff Lake Homeowners Association for inclusion in their newsletter. William Drew advised that this is part of the Township's stormwater management efforts, which will have a positive impact on water quality. The Commission thanked Matt for undertaking this very important project and for his comprehensive

presentation. They requested that he provide a follow-up report when the project is completed.

GREENWOOD LAKE 2005 DRAWDOWN: Memo from the Township Administrator requesting comments. The members noted that dropping the lake is an asset. They advised that a drawdown would expand the capacity of the lake, kill weeds, compress soil and deepen the lake. It was also noted that a drawdown provides homeowners the opportunity to repair docks.

The members also suggested that soil borings be taken during the drawdown to create a base line for future comparison. This test would determine the amount of sediment in the lake and the composition of it.

ANJEC'S INTERPRETATION OF HIGHLANDS RULES: E-mail newsletter called *Highlands Herald* with a link to www.anjec.org/html/Highlandsinterimrules.htm <http://www.anjec.org/html/Highlandsinterimrules.htm>. It was noted that some of the information on the site is inaccurate. Members suggested a response be sent via email to ANJEC informing them of the inaccuracies.

ANJEC ROAD SHOW: Request from the Wayne Environmental Commission to share the cost of a joint meeting. The Commission reviewed the request and noted that unfortunately, the budget did not allow for this expenditure. They requested a letter be sent to the Wayne Commission thanking them for their consideration and advising that, unfortunately, they could not help in this regard.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Copy of letter dated May 23, 2005 from the DEP Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Compliance and Enforcement to Victor Marchiafava failed to comply with a Notice of Violation issued for Block 12501; Lot 22.

Notice dated June 8, 2005 advising that Michael and Patricia Wanas are applying for a General Permit for the installation of a proposed sub-surface sanitary disposal system on property located at 99 Mountain Circle Drive East, Block 5901; Lot 25.

Copy of letter dated June 10, 2005 from the DEP Division of Water Quality advising that the application for a Treatment Works Approval submitted by the West Milford Shopping Plaza has been denied.

Notice dated May 26, 2005 from Careaga Engineering Inc. advising that Advoserv of New Jersey, Inc. is applying for a Treatment Works Approval permit to fix a malfunctioning septic system located at 240 Long House Road, Block 2202; Lot 5.02.

Notice dated May 30, 2005 advising that Eugene Prais is applying for a Highlands Applicability Determination for property located on Dockerty Hollow Road, Block 8401; Lots 22 and 23.

Notice dated July 7, 2005 advising that Eagle Westbrook, Inc. is applying for a Highlands Applicability Determination for the Village on Ridge project located on Ridge Road, Block 5303; Lot 1 and Block 5201; Lots 16, 19 and 20.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Copy of resolution introduced by Township Council on June 9, 2005 authorizing the submission of an application for funding the acquisition of open space from the Passaic County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

Copy of *The Pequannock Post* for June 2005.

Copy of letter dated June 27, 2005 from William Drew, Planning Director, to the Passaic County Planning Board advising that as part of the bikeway improvement program trees will be planted along Ridge Road with funds provided by the Urban Forestry Demonstration Project – Town Center Tree Planting and Landscape Program.

Copy of letter dated June 23, 2005 from the Trex Company to Stephen Sangle, Chairman, regarding the condition of the Environmental Boardwalk.

Copy of letter dated July 1, 2005 from William Drew, Planning Director, to the Trex Company with a completed Concern Form in regard to the warped boards at the Environmental Boardwalk.

MISCELLANEOUS

DRIVEWAY SEALERS: Douglas Ott distributed information regarding the effect of driveway sealers on the environment. During discussion members noted that some of the sealers contain carcinogens, which enter the local waterways as stormwater runoff from the driveways.

OPEN SPACE: Commission members discussed the proposed open space referendum. After discussion the Commission recommended that the original referendum regarding monies for open space should continue as originally intended, that is using the money strictly for the purchase of open space. The Commission supports the creation of a separate referendum to raise additional tax dollars for recreation.

YOUR HOME TEAM SUBDIVISION: Applicant has requested a letter regarding the condition pertaining to the pine forest located on the property. Members advised

that a site inspection was conducted and it was determined that every other tree could be removed.

STOWAWAY DAM: Letter to DEP signed by Chairman voicing Commission's concern with the proliferation of purple loosestrife as a result of the breaching of the Stowaway Dam in West Milford Township.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wendy Peters, a Township resident, addressed the Board regarding grants for open space purchases.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace R. Davis
Secretary