

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

August 7, 2006

Chairman, Stephen Sangle, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Gillian Hemstead, Daniel Kochakji, Timothy Metcalf, Douglas Ott, Bernie Stapleton. Alternates: Irene Smith, Andrew Abdul.
Planning Director: William Drew. GIS Specialist: Robert Sparkes

Absent: Maryellen Gabay

Chairman appointed Ms. Smith to sit for absent member.

ON GOING BUSINESS

BELCHERS CREEK FECAL TESTING GRANT: Robert Sparkes advised that the testing crew was prepared to continue the water sampling of Belchers Creek. He presented a map of the proposed sampling sites and noted that Agra Environmental would perform the laboratory work. A decision on where to test for genetics will be made at a future time.

604(B) GRANT APPLICATION: Robert Sparkes reported that the application is being reviewed by the State and will then be sent to the Township for its approval.

GREENWOOD LAKE 319H GRANT: Robert Sparkes reported that the Township is preparing a Request for Proposal for the installation of two BMPs to be located on county roads. Confirmation of the County's approval will be needed prior to the distribution of the RFP.

STREETSCAPE VISIONING: William Drew updated the Commission on the final visioning session. Consultant to provide a final report.

COUNTY OPEN SPACE PLAN: Robert Sparkes advised that the County had sent GIS data for him to amend and update. Open Space Subcommittee to meet after Labor Day to assist with the County questionnaire.

ENERGY COMMITTEE: Timothy Metcalf advised that the Committee proposed to have a professional prepare a plan on how the Township could conserve energy.

LAKES COMMITTEE: No report.

URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS: Robert Sparkes noted that he met with Kathleen Caren, from the Passaic County Planning Office, to review the status of several grants. He noted that some funds were available from the Environmental Boardwalk grant, which would be held for any further repairs that may be required in the spring. William Drew to contact DPW to clean up debris left from repair work that was recently completed.

With regard to the grant for tree planting Mr. Sparkes advised that the remaining funds would be utilized as part of the Streetscape project. There is a deadline of one year to complete this project. Plans for the use of surplus funds for each grant must be approved by the County prior to their use.

LAWN FERTILIZERS: Bernie Stapleton and Andrew Abdul reported they had reviewed several ordinances from other Townships regarding the regulation of lawn fertilizers. The Commission discussed several issues including penalties, enforcement, permits or licenses for commercial operators and the cost of phosphate free fertilizer. Mr. Stapleton recommended the Commission forward the DEP model along with the Subcommittee report to the Township Council for their consideration. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN: Ron Farr, Environmental Scientist/Forester, North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, explained that the NJDSWC needed to reforest an area to replace trees cut down during a recent project at the Wanaque Reservoir. In order to meet DEP regulations this area of approximately two to eight acres must be within the same watershed. Mr. Farr noted that the trees would replace existing trees, which have become diseased or dangerous. The trees would be native and the same size as the trees cut down and would be planted at no cost to the Township. The State had not provided a deadline for the tree planting, but the trees must be maintained for a period of five years after they have been planted. Mr. Farr explained the benefits of planting and maintaining trees. He further noted that there is an educational component of the Community Forestry Program, which required two articles to be placed in the newspaper within the year and a yearly report to be filed. He also suggested that the Township complete a hazard tree inventory, which could be revised on a yearly basis.

William Drew, Planning Director, advised that any trees planted within the County right-of-way would require County approval.

Mr. Farr outlined the various components of the project and requested a letter from the Township in support of the project. He is to provide a brief summary of the program prior to the next meeting.

STREETSCAPE GRANT: William Drew advised that there would be no significant environmental impact as a result of this grant. There would be an increase of green space in an area of impervious coverage.

GREENWOOD LAKE: Robert Sparkes updated the Commission on meeting of Greenwood Lake Commission. The Commission is considering treating the lake with chemicals to control the weed situation.

Mr. Sparkes also noted that he had attended a meeting regarding a draw down of the lake. Residents will need a Highlands determination to repair the docks.

MINUTES

Approval of minutes of the July 10, 2006 regular meeting. Carried.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Notice dated June 20, 2006 advising that Frank Scott is applying for a General Permit for property located at 41 Teal Road, Block 13907; Lot 1 for the repair of an existing septic system.

Notice dated June 30, 2006 advising that Mark & Cindy Lindsey are applying for a general permit for the installation of a sub-surface sanitary disposal system for property located at 1087 Union Valley Road, Block 7701; Lot 2.02.

Notice dated June 29, 2006 advising that Nicholas Pallis is applying for a General Permit for the installation of a sub-surface sanitary disposal system for property located at 1858 Route 23, Block 13602; Lot 3.

Letter dated July 6, 2006 from EcolSciences, Inc. advising that TCR NJ/PA Land Acquisition LP are resubmitting their application for Statewide General Permit Nos. 2, 10B and 11 and Transition Area Waiver – Averaging Plan for property located on Union Valley Road, Block 8002; Lot 4.

Letter dated June 14, 2006 from Stewart Surveying & Engineering, LLC advising that Michael Fitzpatrick is applying for Treatment Works Approval for property located on Upper High Crest Road, Block 13102; Lot 37.

Notice dated July 10, 2006 advising that K. Douglas Smith (Atlas Const. LLC) is applying for a General Permit for the installation of a sub-surface sanitary disposal field for property located at 3 Riverside Road, Block 2401; Lot 2.

Notice dated July 25, 2006 advising that Charles Russo is applying for a Letter of Interpretation for property located on Layton Road, Block 1903; Lot 11.

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Notices that the following applicants have applied for a Highlands Applicability Determination:

Steven & Christine Castronova, 12 Valley View Lane, Block 7213; Lot 1.

Determinations from the DEP regarding the following applications:
Mines, Otterhole Road, Block 10901; Lot 10.01. Exemption #1. Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

The Lane Group, 1926 Union Valley Road, Block 6701; Lot 10. Not major Highlands Development. Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Copy of Township Resolution 2006–224 authorizing an amendment to the execution of a 604(B) Water Quality Management Planning Grant Agreement.

Copy of Township Resolution 2006-223 authorizing application of an NJDEP Grant (FY2007 Section 319h) for installation of structural BMPs recommended by the NJDEP approved stormwater implementation plan for the New Jersey end of the Greenwood Lake Watershed.

Copy of Township Resolution 2006-227 authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Princeton Hydro, LLC to assist the Township in the development of an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) management plan.

Letter dated July 13, 2006 from the Jefferson Township Environmental Commission requesting support for Nest Generation Jr. Bassmasters program, which is aimed at solving the problem of discarded monoline along lakes and streams.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one wished to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace R. Davis
Secretary