

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 5, 2007

The Chairman, Stephen Sangle, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Gillian Hemstead (Left early), Timothy Metcalf, Douglas Ott, Bernie Stapleton, Stephen Sangle. Alternate: Irene Smith, Andrew Abdul (Arrived late). Planning Director: William Drew. GIS Specialist: Robert Sparkes

Absent: Maryellen Gabay, Daniel Kochakji.

Chairman appointed Ms. Smith to sit for Ms. Gabay.

APPLICATIONS

ERNEST OBERER, Minor Subdivision #0510-1975, Block 14201; Lots 14 and 15, 350 Germantown Road; R-3 Zone. Planning Director, William Drew, noted that the applicant had submitted a Limited Environmental Impact Statement. The applicant, Ernest Oberer, was present. After discussion the Commission determined that a site inspection would be conducted and the findings reported at the next meeting.

TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

David Watson-Hallowell gave a presentation regarding Sustainable West Milford, a group he formed to promote the attributes of the Township. He explained what a sustainable community was and the goals and objectives of the group. Mr. Watson-Hallowell explained the various activities that they have undertaken to date. He discussed the projects that they are currently working on and how they tied in with the work of the Commission. Mr. Watson-Hallowell offered the services and cooperation of the group to the Commission. The Commission members offered several suggestions for promoting the group as well as areas in which they might help.

DEP Report on No Name Dam – Block 7702; Lot 4 (Stanford property). William Drew reported that notification had been received from the DEP advising that the owner of the property had to remove or replace the dam.

NEW BUSINESS

EAGLE RIDGE PROPERTY: Stephen Sangle noted that it had been reported that the property known as Eagle Ridge might be for sale. After discussion the Commission recommended that a memo be sent to the Township Council advising that there was a possibility the owners of the property were considering selling it and urging the Council to pursue the matter and offer to purchase the property utilizing available Open Space funds.

ON GOING BUSINESS

HIGHLANDS REGIONAL MASTER PLAN: William Drew reported that he had made a presentation to the Township Council with regard to the contents of the draft Master Plan. He further noted that representatives of the Highlands Council had appeared at a Township Council meeting to answer questions. Mr. Drew also advised that the period for public comment had been extended to April 2nd. Councilman Smolinski was present and advised that the Council intended to address by resolution or report all the issues of the Highlands report relating to the Township.

BELCHERS CREEK FECAL TESTING: Robert Sparkes distributed a draft report of the Belcher's Creek fecal study for the Commission's review. A final report, including the test results and list of test sites, was to be prepared and forwarded to the Township Council.

604(B) GRANT APPLICATION: Robert Sparkes reported that the first quarterly report had been submitted. He noted that he was to attend a DEP sponsored training session for the EPA created database for septic maintenance. Fred Lubnow, the representative from Princeton Hydro, and Mr. Sparkes are to meet on a monthly basis to work out the details of the grant. Mr. Lubnow to be invited to the May meeting of Commission to update the members on the progress of the grant. Mr. Sparkes and Mr. Lubnow are also to meet with representatives of the DEP.

2004 GREENWOOD LAKE 319H GRANT: Robert Sparkes reported that the one remaining item on this grant, which involved the Stormwater Implementation Plan, was the installation of two BMPs on Greenwood Lake Turnpike. He noted that the bid specs for the project had been received from Princeton Hydro and were forwarded to the Township Administrator. It was further noted that a one-year time extension had been received on the grant.

2007 STORMWATER IMPLEMENTATION GRANT 319H GRANT: Robert Sparkes reported that he had emailed the members advising that this grant had been received. He noted that this was a cooperative effort between the Township, the Environmental Commission, the Greenwood Lake

Commission, the DEP, the Planning Department and the consultant. The Township will be administering the grant and in-kind services will be provided by both the Greenwood Lake Commission and the Township. Mr. Sparkes provided the background on this grant and advised that the Township Council was to adopt a resolution in support of this grant at its next meeting. He noted how valuable Princeton Hydro had been in securing the grant and recommended that the firm be named the consultant for this grant. A **MOTION** was made by Stephen Sangle, seconded by Douglas Ott, recommending that the Township Council name Princeton Hydro as the consultant for this grant. On voice vote all were in favor. None opposed.

STREETSCAPE GRANT: William Drew reported that the release of funds for Phase I had been received and the design phase was set to start.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN: William Drew advised that he had been in contact with Ronn Farr of the North Jersey District Water Supply with regard to the planting of trees. He had also consulted with the Township Administrator on how this project would dovetail with the Streetscape Plan. Township Council to consider this program at their next work meeting. It was noted that time is of the essence for participating in this project and a resolution was needed from the Council.

ANJEC: 2007 Planning Grants – Resolution. Robert Sparkes advised that the Township Council had approved the resubmission of last year's grant proposal. A resolution to be adopted at the next Council meeting. Mr. Sparkes and Mr. Drew to meet with representatives of ANJEC to discuss the requirements of the grant. It was noted that the Greenwood Lake Commission was to provide a letter of support for the grant.

ENERGY COMMITTEE: Timothy Metcalf reported that the Township had submitted all the required information to Honeywell and that a report would be received from Honeywell by next week. He noted that the first phase of this project involved comparing the utility bills and the conditions of the buildings against like buildings. A proposal would then be prepared and provided to the Committee.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Irene Smith reported the Committee discussed the Highlands Report.

GREENWOOD LAKE COMMISSION: Robert Sparkes advised that the stump removal on Greenwood Lake had been completed. He also noted that a fly over of the entire lake had been completed and the information was to be shared with the Township.

URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS: Robert Sparkes noted that there are two grants still open. Mr. Sparkes discussed the status of these grants with Kathleen Karen, the Passaic Count Administrator, with regard to an extension of time. The funds from the tree planting grant are allocated to the streetscape program. Douglas Ott advised that the remaining funds from the boardwalk grant could be used to repair the facility. Mr. Ott inspected the boardwalk and determined that approximately 25 boards need to be replaced and the railing straightened. Stephen Sangle recommended that a letter be sent to Trex thanking them for supplying the material for the repairs, which they supplied at no cost. George Flader to be contacted to perform the necessary repairs.

LAWN FERTILIZERS ORDINANCE: Ordinance scheduled for introduction by Township Council.

WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT: William Drew and Robert Sparkes met with Les Lynn to review a plan that was submitted by the consultant from Ramapo College. This project, which is to be established on the Wallisch Estates property, will require permits from the DEP. It was noted that this would be a forested wetlands.

ANNUAL REPORT: Yearly report from Environmental Commission to Township Council. Stephen Sangle suggested tying in the septic ordinance with the 604b grant in the report. Several other amendments recommended. Upon completion of report a presentation to be made to the Township Council. It was noted that this would be a good time to update the Council as several grants have been completed and new grants have been started. Report to be prepared for the next meeting.

MINUTES

MOTION made by Douglas Ott, seconded by Bernie Stapleton, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2007 regular meeting. On voice vote all eligible members voted in the affirmative.

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT

Notice dated February 22, 2007 advising that Quick Chek Corporation is applying for an exemption for property located at 4-10 Marshall Hill Road; Block 5701; Lots 3 and 4. Noted and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice advising that Quick Chek Corporation is applying for an a Letter of Interpretation and Line Verification for property located at 4 Marshall Hill Road; Block 5701; Lots 3 and 4. Noted and filed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one wished to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace R. Davis
Secretary