

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 10, 2006

Chairman, Stephen Sangle, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Maryellen Gabay (Arrived late), Gillian Hemstead (Arrived late), Daniel Kochakji, Timothy Metcalf, Douglas Ott, Bernie Stapleton. Alternates: Irene Smith, Andrew Abdul. Chairman: Stephen Sangle Planning Director: William Drew. GIS Specialist: Robert Sparkes

Absent:

REPORT ON WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Les Lynn was present to discuss issues between the Council and Environmental Commission concerning the MUA.

Chairman, Stephen Sangle, advised that no correspondence had been received from the Township Council requesting the Commission investigate any MUA violations. However, in light of recent articles regarding this matter, he had requested copies of reports from the MUA for the past year and asked Dr. Lynn to review the data and report his findings to the Commission. In the event the allegations are true the Commission would investigate the matter at the direction of the Township Council.

Dr. Lynn stated that through the years the Environmental Commission had always declined to respond to criticism. However, to keep the record straight, he believed a response was necessary. He advised that he had reviewed the violations and there was nothing that indicated an ongoing problem. The problems that arose were episodic and were always rectified by the MUA. Dr. Lynn emphasized that the Commission was never contacted by the Township Council with regard to any problems relating to the MUA. He advised that in the past when the Commission was presented with problems it took the appropriate action by notifying the DEP. He noted that the grants received for testing Belchers Creek were specially related to septic systems and not treatment facilities. Dr. Lynn questioned the validity of recent tests performed by individuals and the chain of custody. He suggested that in the future an impartial third party be employed to perform testing. A grant specific to sewage treatment plants would have to be obtained.

Pat Rector, a representative of the DEP, noted that the Department did not accept data regarding treatment plants from anyone but their own people. She further noted that the treatment plants were never a scope of the current grants.

Mr. Sangle noted that the Commission was willing to explore every possible source for testing and if there were a problem it would be investigated. Several people noted that the Environmental Commission had always been nonpolitical and worked together for the betterment of the Township.

ON GOING BUSINESS

BELCHERS CREEK FECAL TESTING GRANT: Robert Sparkes reported on the status of the tests being conducted along Belchers Creek. He noted that nine sites had been sampled and that the members of the testing crew had been trained by the DEP and followed the correct protocol. He proposed modifying the grant to include some additional sites for testing. Ms. Rector clarified that the grant was not to test for treatment plants. She suggested that the connection between rain event and high numbers be explored further. Ms. Rector advised that she was still pursuing an answer regarding the protocol for human vs. nonhuman and would provide an answer as soon as possible.

604(B) GRANT APPLICATION: Pat Rector, DEP and Fred Lubnow, Princeton Hydro, were present to discuss the grant. Robert Sparkes advised that the Township Council had adopted resolutions accepting the grant and to hire Princeton Hydro as a consultant on the grant. Ms. Rector advised that the Township was one of the few municipalities to obtain a 604(B) grant.

Mr. Lubnow outlined the nine main components of the grant, which was to address the stormwater implementation plan. The grant was intended to study the reduction of phosphorus in the lake from septic systems. The proposal is provide a document to guide the Township in long-term septic management. Mr. Sparkes advised that he would create the database, the Commission would assist with monitoring the educational outreach program, and Mr. Lubnow would report to the Commission several times.

Two members of the Greenwood Lake Commission, Eric Hastings and George Vurno, were present and addressed the Commission regarding the proposed testing.

In response to their questions, William Drew, Planning Director, advised that the Township had recently adopted the new Stormwater Quality regulations proposed by the DEP as well as a Stormwater Management Element to the Master Plan. Mr. Sangle also noted that the Township Council had referred an ordinance on the regulation of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers for the Commission's comments.

GREENWOOD LAKE 319H GRANT: Robert Sparkes noted that the Township Council had approved a recommendation to proceed with a 2007 grant. A portion of that grant would provide educational outreach to improve the quality of Greenwood Lake.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREA 3: Bernie Stapleton advised that no meetings had been held.

WEST MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL WATER MONITORING WEBSITE: Douglas Ott that some software bugs have to be worked out. Matter will be pursued when school resumes.

ANJEC 2006 PLANNING GRANTS: William Drew advised that the grant request was denied.

STREETSCAPE VISIONING: Stephen Sangle and William Drew provided an update on the status and the roles of the Environmental Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Board in preserving historic structures. Mr. Drew noted that two visioning sessions had been held with the County consultant and residents regarding their vision for the center of town. He invited the Commission members to attend a third meeting, which was scheduled for the following week, at which time the consultant would present his findings of the previous meetings.

COUNTY OPEN SPACE PLAN: Robert Sparkes reported that the County was updating its Open Space Plan. He requested the assistance of the Open Space Subcommittee in updating his database and providing information to the County. Subcommittee to inspect site along Union Valley Road for possible inclusion in Open Space Plan.

ENERGY COMMITTEE: Timothy Metcalf attended a meeting of the committee and noted that the purpose of the committee is to evaluate ways to save money for the Township by evaluating the buildings and operations. Members to inspect the various Township facilities and reach out to energy companies for their input.

NEW BUSINESS

LAWN FERTILIZERS: Request from Township Council for recommendations on regulations for the use of lawn fertilizers. After discussion the Commission appointed a Subcommittee consisting of Bernie Stapleton and Andy Abdul to review sample ordinances and prepare recommendations for next meeting.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Irene Smith was unanimously appointed the Environmental Commission representative to the Lakes Committee.

MINUTES

MOTION made by Douglas Ott, seconded by Gillian Hemstead, to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2006 meeting. On voice vote all eligible members voted in the affirmative.

MOTION made by Daniel Kochakji, seconded by Douglas Ott, to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2006 regular meeting. On voice vote all eligible members voted in the affirmative.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Notice that Thomas Scala is applying for an extension of existing permits for Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit, Water Quality Certification, Waiver of Transition Area for Access; and, Letter of Verification and Line Verification for property known as Laurel Hollow, Block 5001; Lots 19, 20 and 21; Block 5006; Lots 10, 11; and, Block 5010; Lots 3 – 14.

Notice dated March 12, 2006 advising that Rui Filipe is applying for a Letter of Interpretation for property located at 734 Macopin Road, Block 14001; Lots 11 and 12.

Notice dated May 25, 2006 advising that Stacey Gould is applying for a General Permit for the installation of a subsurface sanitary disposal system on property located at 16 Rosemont Avenue, Block 11302; Lot 34.

Notice dated May 22, 2006 advising that Ralph and Mary Coppola are applying for a General Permit #1 for the replacement of existing bulkhead adjacent to State open water (Greenwood Lake) for property located at 30 Rocky Point Road; Lot 3512; Lot 10.

Letter dated June 7, 2006 from the DEP advising the Diocese of Paterson that the Nosenzo Pond Dam is in need of repairs.

Copy of letter dated June 7, 2006 from William Drew, Planning Director, to the Bureau of Watershed Regulation regarding their response to the Commission's request for a definition of impervious cover.

Memorandum dated June 26, 2006 from the Manager of the Bureau of Dam Safety & Flood Control regarding their review of the Emergency Action Plans and Dam Breach Analyses for various dams.

Notice received June 23, 2006 advising that Frank Scott is applying for a General Permit #25 for property located at 41 Teal Road, Block 13907; Lot 1 for the alternation of a sub surface sanitary disposal system.

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:

Carl Bierwas, 1945 Macopin Road, Block 8201; Lot 2. Additional material submitted.

Vincent Lanza, 783 Macopin Road, Block 12110; Lot 5.01.

Vincent Lanza, 775 Macopin Road, Block 12108; Lot 1.

Thomas Santiago, Rockburn Pass, Block 5011; Lot 7

Determinations from the DEP regarding the following applications:

Charles Russo, Layton Road, Block 1903; Lot 11. Exempt. Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

Robert Coyman, Browns Point Plaza, 1975 Greenwood Lake Turnpike, Block 3610; Lot 26. Exemption #4. Water Quality Management Plan – Inconsistent.

Shiloh Bible Camp, Inc., 753 Burnt Meadow Road, Block 6002; Lot 47. Exemption #6. Water Quality Management Plan – Inconsistent.

Omnipoint Wireless Telecommunications, Center Island Route 23, Block 14102; Lot 1. Exemption #4. Water Quality Management Plan – Not Addressed.

Village on Ridge (Section II), Ridge Road, Block 5203; Lots 1-14, 19-30; Block 5204, Lots 2-15; Block 5205; Lots 1-9; Block 5202; Lot 12, 6. Clarification received on limitation imposed on construction work.

Carl Bierwas, 1945 Macopin Road, Block 8201; Lot 2. Notice of Technical Incompleteness.

John Macellaro, Maple Road, Block 10817; Lot 4. Not Major Highlands Development. Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

Eugene R. and Elaine F. Prais, 114 Dockerty Hollow Road, Block 8401; Lots 22 and 23. Exemption #1. Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

Vincent Lanza, Macopin Road, Block 12110; Lot 5.03. Notice of Technical Incompleteness.

Vincent Lanza, Macopin Road, Block 12110; Lot 3.01. Notice of Technical Incompleteness.

Notice of Violation:

Peter Firavanti, 154 Morsetown Road, Block 4701; Lot 11.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Copy of memo dated June 6, 2006 from Robert Sparkes, GIS Specialist, to Richard Kunze, Township Administrator, advising of Commission's unanimous support for the SFY 2007 Section 319(h) Grant for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control for N.J. Greenwood Lake Watershed.

Copy of memo dated June 8, 2006 from Robert Sparkes, GIS Specialist, to Richard Kunze, Township Administrator, re revision to Resolution for 604(b) Water Quality Management Grant.

Copy of memo dated June 9, 2006 from Robert Sparkes, GIS Specialist, to Richard Kunze, Township Administrator, requesting a letter of commitment from the Council for the SFY 2007 Section 319(h) Grant for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control for N.J. Greenwood Lake Watershed.

Copy of letter dated June 22, 2006 from William Drew, Planning Director, to the Passaic County Planning Board advising that the work on the Urban Forestry Demonstration Project – Town Center Tree Planting and Landscape Program has been completed.

Copy of letter dated June 22, 2006 from William Drew, Planning Director, to the Passaic County Planning Board advising that work has been completed on the Urban Forestry Demonstration Project – Preparation of an Inventory of Forest Resources.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one wished to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace R. Davis
Secretary