

# TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### MINUTES

June 4, 2007

Chairman, Stephen Sangle, called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Andrew Abdul, Gillian Hemstead, Timothy Metcalf, Douglas Ott, Stephen Sangle, Irene Smith, Bernie Stapleton, Alternates: Maryellen Gabay, David Watson-Hallowell. Planning Director: William Drew. GIS Specialist: Robert Sparkes

Absent:

### ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

### NEW BUSINESS

**Fertilizer Ordinance:** John Lauritano, a Township resident, made a presentation to the Commission with regard to the ordinance, which requires the use of zero phosphorus lawn fertilizers. Mr. Lauritano, who has worked in the landscaping business for many years, demonstrated how little phosphorus is in a bag of fertilizer and compared that to the amount of phosphorus from poorly maintained septic systems and animal waste. He maintained that lawns would not grow properly without phosphorus and that phosphorus runoff comes from sources other than lawn fertilizers.

Members advised him that the Commission was taking a role in curtailing phosphorus in order to cut down on the weed problem in area waterways. Chairman, Stephen Sangle, noted that it was necessary to try every technique available. If at a future date a reduction in phosphorus was found, the Commission would recommend changes to the ordinance.

**Watershed Ambassador:** Anthony Coleman, the current Watershed Ambassador from the Americorps Program, updated the Commission on his activities. He advised that one of his projects was working with the High School Environmental Club on water sampling. He also was conducting an assessment of Belchers Creek. In that regard, Mr. Coleman requested help in completing the project. Maryellen Gabay offered the assistance of the Boy Scouts.

### APPLICATIONS

**VINCENT LANZA, Minor Subdivision #0510-1976, Preliminary and Final Site Plan #0520-219AB, Bulk Variance #0530-0718, Block 9501; Lot 12,**

1383 Macopin Road; R-3 Zone. After discussion the Commission recommended that the proposed lighting be directed down and away from adjacent residences. They further recommended that a timer be installed on the lighting.

## **TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS**

**NEW YORK SMSA LP (LAKELAND PLAZA), D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS, Preliminary and Final Site Plan #0620-0238AB, Variance #0630-0744**, Block 14605; Lot 2, 2727 Route 23 South; HC Zone. Members expressed concern with regard to the expansion of the compound area towards the Pequannock River. They also raised questions regarding the number of antennae that the tower could support.

**NYSMSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS (UGL FIRE), Preliminary & Final Site Plan #0520-0205AB**, Block 1701; Lot 59, 776 Warwick Turnpike; LR Zone. Members had no further concerns with regard to this application.

## **ON GOING BUSINESS**

**604(B) GRANT APPLICATION:** Robert Sparkes reported that he had met with Pat Rector of the DEP to work out the details of the project.

**2004 GREENWOOD LAKE 319H GRANT:** Robert Sparkes advised that the final phase of the grant, the installation of BMPs, went out to bid. He noted that the two bids that were received were both over budget. Mr. Sparkes to discuss with Pat Rector of the DEP whether to reduce the bid to one BMP or request additional funds.

**2007 STORMWATER IMPLEMENTATION GRANT 319H GRANT:** Robert Sparkes noted that the final agreement had not been received.

**STREETSCAPE GRANT:** William Drew reported that he had met with the Township Engineer to draft a Request for Proposal for the design phase of the project. RFP to be advertised and a consultant hired by the end of the summer. Trees provided under Community Forestry Plan to be incorporated into project.

**COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN:** Resolution in support of project adopted by Township Council. Robert Sparkes noted that he had forwarded a copy to Ronn Farr at the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission. The resolution authorized the Mayor to send a letter in support of the project. Mr. Sparkes to consult Administrator as to whether letter was sent.

**ENERGY COMMITTEE:** Timothy Metcalf updated the members on the energy audit being conducted by Honeywell Corp. He advised that another company, Siemens, had made a presentation to the committee. The committee is looking at

whether to do an RFP. After discussion the Commission a memo be sent to the Township Council recommending that the Township continue to work with the Honeywell Corp. to complete the audit as Honeywell was originally brought in to conduct the energy audit.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Irene Smith reported that the committee had discussed an ordinance for the maintenance of septic systems. Copy of ordinance from Sparta discussed. William Drew explained how the matter is handled in Roxbury. Robert Sparkes noted that a sample ordinance received from ANJEC was more extensive and both ordinances should be compared. He explained that the Township Council had requested recommendations from the Commission. William Drew to obtain additional information from Roxbury on licensing and rate of compliance. Matter to be discussed further at next month's meeting.

Ms. Smith also advised that the committee was trying to attract more members. She noted that at present only about half the lake communities are represented. William Drew and Robert Sparkes to attend next meeting of committee.

**URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS:** Nothing to report.

**LAWN FERTILIZERS ORDINANCE:** Review of application and license for landscapers. Members determined that residents needed to be educated on the best practices for lawn care. Maryellen Gabay and David Watson-Hallowell to write an article for the local newspapers. Information also to be put on Township web site and distributed at next Autumn Lights Festival. Alternative ground covers were also suggested.

William Drew advised that the Health Department had licensed 22 vehicles from 5 companies as of the end of May. List of companies to be emailed to members. Members suggested residents be advised to contact Township Health Department to find out if their lawn care professional is licensed. Mr. Drew noted that the Health Department had put information regarding licensing on the Township web site and had sent press releases to local newspapers.

**WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT:** Ramapo College-Wallisich Estates Property. William Drew advised that the consultant for Ramapo College had filed the necessary permits with the DEP. Upon receipt of those permits the College agreed to notify all residents within 200 feet of the property.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ANJEC WEST MILFORD LAKES GRANT:** William Drew informed the Commission that the grant for West Milford Lakes had been received. He noted that this project will tie in with the Streetscape Project and that work should be started next month with a targeted completion date of May 2008. Councilman Smolinski was present and inquired about the existing building on the property. Mr. Drew advised this matter would be considered as part of the project.

**SEPTIC MAINTENANCE:** See Lakes Committee above.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

In response to an inquiry from David Watson-Hallowell, William Drew advised that the application before the Board of Adjustment for 1952 Union Valley Road was carried. He noted that he would advise the Commission when it was rescheduled so that he could present the Commission's concerns.

Gillian Hemstead and Robert Sparkes to schedule a presentation before the Township Council.

Members requested a plaque be ordered for Daniel Kochakji, a former member, and that a presentation be scheduled for a future meeting.

## **MINUTES**

**MOTION** made by Douglas Ott, seconded by Bernie Stapleton, to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2007 regular meeting. On voice vote all eligible members voted in the affirmative.

**MOTION** made by Douglas Ott, seconded by Stephen Sangle, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2005 regular meeting. On voice vote all eligible members voted in the affirmative.

**MOTION** made by Bernie Stapleton, seconded by Gillian Hemstead, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2005 regular meeting. On voice vote all eligible members voted in the affirmative.

## **HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT**

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

Determinations from the DEP regarding the following applications:

Antonucci, Cherry Ridge Road, Block 101; Lot 29. Exempt. Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent. Received and filed.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Letter dated April 16, 2007 advising that Vincent Lanza is applying for a General Permit a driveway installation on property located on Lookover Drive, Block 206; Lot 14.02.

Letter advising that Frank and Charles Decker are applying for a Transition Area Waiver for property located on Greenwood Lake Turnpike, Block 6404; Lot 1.02.

Letter received April 23, 2007 advising that Jason and Tara Donohue are applying for a Letter of Interpretation for property located at 98 Riverside Road, Block 2302; Lot 4.

Letter dated May 9, 2007 from the Division of Watershed Management regarding the total maximum daily load reports addressing total phosphorus impairment in the non-tidal Passaic River Basin, Pompton Lake and Ramapo River.

Letter dated March 23, 2007 from EcolSciences, Inc. advising that Environmental Construction Company is applying for a General Permit No. 6 for property located on Inwood Road, Block 12110; Lot 3.01.

Letter dated March 23, 2007 from EcolSciences, Inc. advising that Environmental Construction Company is applying for a General Permit No. 6 for property located on Inwood Road, Block 12110; Lot 5.03.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Letter received May 1, 2007 from Groundwater & Environmental Services, Inc, providing a draft Classification Exception Area (CEA) report for property located at 1367 Union Valley Road. Received and filed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Councilman Smolinski commended David Watson-Hallowell on his presentation to the Township Council regarding the Wallisch property. He also requested the Commission proceed with the septic maintenance ordinance as soon as possible.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace R. Davis  
Secretary