

TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 9, 2007

Chairman, Stephen Sangle, called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. The audio and recording system were not working; the meeting was manually taped.

ROLL CALL

Present: Andrew Abdul (arrived 7:57), Gillian Hemstead, Douglas Ott, Stephen Sangle, Irene Smith, Bernie Stapleton, Alternates: Maryellen Gabay (arrived 7:55), David Watson-Hallowell, GIS Specialist Robert Sparkes

Absent: Timothy Metcalf, Planning Director William Drew

APPLICATIONS

SUNNY BLUE, LLC, Preliminary and Final Site Plan #0720-0286AB, Block 5701; Lot 1, 1502-12 Union Valley Road, Request for Waiver of Environmental Impact Statement. The Commission members proceeded with a discussion of the proposed Walgreen's pharmacy that included the location of the building, streetscape conformity, landscaping, use of existing septic fields, lighting affecting the neighboring properties, and concerns with storm water drainage and water quality. The Commission members concurred that a waiver not be granted and recommended to the Planning Board that the applicant submit a limited Environmental Impact Statement addressing lighting and water quality.

TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS

None.

ON GOING BUSINESS

604(B) GRANT APPLICATION: Robert Sparkes reported that he had attended a two-day seminar on site septic maintenance. New technology in septic systems was discussed including peat filtration systems and other alternative waste water treatment systems. The Commission discussed data collection on system effectiveness.

2004 GREENWOOD LAKE 319H GRANT: Robert Sparkes advised that the final phase of the grant, the installation of BMPs, went out to bid. The budget was \$60,000.00 and the low bid came in at \$108,000.00. The D.E.P was advised of the need for more money. The Township Council will reject the bids and the project re-bid.

2007 STORM WATER IMPLEMENTATION GRANT 319H GRANT: Robert Sparkes noted that a resolution to award a contract to Princeton Hydro is before the Township Council at their next scheduled meeting.

STREETSCAPE GRANT: Robert Sparkes reported that William Drew has worked with the Township Engineer to draft a Request for Proposal for the design phase of the project. The RFP will be advertised and a consultant hired by the end of August. Mr. Sparkes also reported that he has “inherited” the Smart Growth grant management.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN: The Township Council and Mayor sent a letter to Ronn Farr and the State in support of the project.

ENERGY COMMITTEE: Timothy Metcalf sent an email that there was nothing new to report as the Energy Committee did not have a meeting in June.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Robert Sparkes reported that those present at the meeting discussed possible grants and Mr. Sparkes advised them of the Environmental Commission’s efforts to obtain grants during the past ten years. The canoe group offered their services to assist. The Lakes Committee discussed a lake characterization plan that would include information on depth, temperature, etc. Mr. Sparkes advised Pat Richter about the proposed plan. The Commission members agreed that this information would be very useful to lake volunteers.

URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS: Robert Sparkes advised that he had been in contact with Kathleen Caren of Passaic County and there are two grants with funds available for repairs to the environmental boardwalk and tree planting. He will get more information for the next meeting. The Commission members discussed the boardwalk, water height, and agreed that the site needed to be cleared of accumulating debris. The D.P.W. will be requested to assist in clean up efforts.

WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT: Robert Sparkes advised that there was nothing new regarding this project.

ANJEC WEST MILFORD LAKES GRANT: Robert Sparkes reported that the grant had been received, signed and returned. He met with Les Lynn and Princeton Hydro to discuss proposals for services and noted that they are well within the budgeted amount. By motion and unanimous vote, the Environmental Commission approved the hiring of Les Lynn and Princeton Hydro as consultants for the ANJEC/West Milford Lakes grant. Mr. Sparkes advised that the Commission would hold open meetings with residents to discuss possible options for West Milford Lakes.

SEPTIC MAINTENANCE: Following discussion of model ordinances and a request for recommendation to the Township Council, the Commission members formed a sub-committee with Gillian Hemstead, David Watson-Hallowell, Douglas Ott, and Robert Sparkes. The Chairman advised that the group should meet and report back

to the Commission at the August meeting. The members continued their discussion of septic maintenance, including homeowners' costs for mandatory inspection versus mandatory pumping, etc. The Chairman advised that a memorandum be sent to the Township Council regarding the formation of the subcommittee and the Environmental Commission's intent to forward a recommendation following the findings of the subcommittee.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL: Robert Sparkes reported that he and Gillian Hemstead will attend the Township Council meeting to present the Annual Report to the Council. Ms. Hemstead noted that they will advise the Mayor and Council on the Environmental Commission's efforts to coordinate numerous grants and the results on water quality within the community.

MORRIS LAND CONSERVANCY: Mr. Sparkes reported that the Township Administrator had scheduled a meeting with the Morris Land Conservancy for July 11, 2007 to discuss possible acquisition of properties and open space. The Commission members concurred that Chairman Stephen Sangle would attend the meeting to represent the Commission and report to the members at the August meeting.

ERIC HASTING – GREENWOOD LAKE TURNPIKE: Chairman Sangle reported that large amounts of fill have been brought onto the subject site and there are concerns about the origins of the fill and the effects on the wetlands on the adjacent property. He noted that the owner had been in violation prior to this, and a stop work order had been issued by the Zoning Officer.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARDWALK MAINTENANCE: Robert Sparkes reported that Estelle Anderson and Bob Jones had volunteered to maintain the boardwalk. He noted that Mr. Jones is the trail master for northern New Jersey and is qualified to perform the maintenance. Douglas Ott noted the poor condition of the site and the need for regular maintenance. Following discussion about insurance liability, the Commission members agreed to the boardwalk maintenance by Ms. Anderson and Mr. Jones.

MINUTES

MOTION made by Douglas Ott, seconded by Maryellen Gabay, to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2005 regular meeting. On voice vote all eligible members voted in the affirmative.

MISCELLANEOUS

AUTUMN LIGHTS FESTIVAL: The Commission members discussed participation in the event, including ordering a banner for the table. Mr. Sparkes advised that he

will look into whether monies are available for this purchase. The Chairman advised the secretary to confirm the Commission's participation in the event.

PLAQUES FOR SERVICE: The Chairman noted that the Commission should present plaques to Daniel Kochakji and Grace Davis for their years of service to the Environmental Commission. The members agreed to a presentation at a future Environmental Commission meeting.

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:

Rehabilitation of Gordon Lakes Dam, Block 12307; Lots 16 & 49 – Exemption # 9. Water Quality Management Plan – Not addressed.

Battinelli, Block 3107; Lot 13, 2 Somerville Road – Exemption # 4. Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The following correspondence was received and filed:

Letter dated June 1, 2007 from the NJ DEP Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks - Progress Report Approval regarding West Milford Exxon #35139, 2 Marshall Hill Road.

Correspondence dated April 11, 2007 from the NJ DEP in response for a request for a L.O.I. with Line Delineation from Zanado, Block 901; Lot 3; Hanover Road.

Letter from NJ DEP Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks, dated June 22, 2007, regarding Shell SS, Route 23 & Union Valley Road, Newfoundland – Notice of Deficiency.

Letter from the NJ DEP dated June 28, 2007 regarding 103 Banker Road remediation– No Further Action Conditions.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and filed:

The Pequannock Post – June 2007

Letter received on June 11, 2007 from the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation regarding new publication *Protecting Nature in Your Community* included with correspondence. Publication and evaluation form in PDF version also available at cbc.amnh.org.

Letter received from ANJEC dated April 17, 2007 requesting a Follow Up/Use Survey for the Groundwater Survey (2002).

Letter from the Autumn Lights Festival Committee regarding Civic Group Participation at Autumn Lights Festival on October 13, 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby
Secretary