

# **TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES**

**August 13, 2007**

Chairman, Stephen Sangle, called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Andrew Abdul, Gillian Hemstead, Douglas Ott, Stephen Sangle, Bernie Stapleton, Alternate Maryellen Gabay (8:07), GIS Specialist Robert Sparkes, Planning Director William Drew.

Absent: Timothy Metcalf, Irene Smith, David Watson Hallowell

### **TELECOMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS**

William Drew, Planning Director noted that the applicant was not present and advised the Commission move to the next matter.

### **GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW**

**ANJEC WEST MILFORD LAKES GRANT-** Kerry Miller, ANJEC, Dr. Les Lynn, consultant, and Dr. Fred Lubnow, Princeton Hydro, were present to discuss the West Milford Lakes Grant. Ms. Miller commended the Environmental Commission members for their efforts. The grant agreement was reviewed by Commission members, and it was noted that four progress reports will be due. Public outreach, as a main part of the project, was discussed. Dr. Lubnow distributed information to the members regarding outflow below West Milford Lakes that indicated an unusually high phosphorous content, also noting the need for dam repairs. He reviewed management of the site. Robert Sparkes advised that he was in contact with the Bureau of Dam Safety and was informed that the dam could not be removed due to possible flooding concerns in the event of a 100-year storm. Following discussion, Dr. Lubnow continued with his presentation, referring to possible State or Federal funding in the future, noting that the emerging wetlands being incorporated into this project will be reviewed favorably.

Dr. Les Lynn, Lynn Ecological Associates, reviewed his function as part of this project, serving as a liaison between Princeton Hydro, Bureau of Dam Safety and the Environmental Commission. He will also serve as a liaison between the Commission and the public, assist with the educational component, attend 7 Environmental Commission meetings, and offer a professional assessment of the project.

Following more discussion by the Commission members and the consultants, Mr. Sparkes advised that the public information meetings will be scheduled at 6:30 to 7:30 on the evenings prior to the Environmental Commission's regular meetings.

**604(B) GRANT APPLICATION:** Dr. Lubnow reported that a site for septic leachate samples was needed, and Town Hall may be used for monitoring, as it is an older system. The Environmental Commission members will be trained as part of the project. Dr. Lubnow reported that a septic model had been run and the amount of phosphorous has increased since the 1980's when the monitoring began. The members discussed use of detergents and the amount of phosphorous leaving the area, with 50% from stormwater and 50% from septic. MaryEllen Gabay suggested distribution of environmentally safe detergent packets at the Commission's Autumn Lights booth. Chairman Sangle noted that the fertilizer ordinance was a start in public awareness of the problems with phosphorous, and that information on detergents can follow.

**URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS:** Nothing to report

**2004 GREENWOOD LAKE 319H GRANT:** Dr. Lubnow reported a package is being assembled for one unit of the project and bids will be going out shortly.

**2007 STORMWATER IMPLEMENTATION GRANT 319H GRANT:** Dr. Lubnow and Rob Sparkes reported that this grant would be larger in scope and apply towards acres of land and stormwater runoff.

**STREETScape GRANT:** Rob Sparkes reported that he had met with Kathleen Caren and monies are available for streetscape improvements. William Drew, Planning Director, reported that the plans for the streetscape may be complete in September with proposals to be sent out in October, with an anticipated award by the Township Council in November. He reviewed the process that included the consultant working with the Township Council, Planning Board and the Passaic County Planning Board to develop three concepts, followed by construction plan preparation. It is anticipated that construction may begin in 2009, with work on the Town Hall side of Union Valley Road, from the Presbyterian Church to West Milford Lake.

## **ON GOING BUSINESS**

**COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN:** Rob Sparkes reported that he had met with Rob Farr and asked Commission members to meet with him as a subcommittee. Douglas Ott, Andrew Abdul, and MaryEllen Gabay volunteered to work with him on this. William Drew reported that the Community Forestry Plan is two separate parts comprised of the forestry grant and the re-forestation of land. The Chairman asked that this be discussed more at the next meeting.

**ENERGY COMMITTEE:** Michael Tfank and Timothy Metcalf are involved with an energy survey and a report will be available in the coming months.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** The Lakes Committee did not meet in the past month. No report was available.

**LAWN FERTILIZERS ORDINANCE:** There was nothing new to report at this time.

**WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT:** There was nothing new to report at this meeting.

**SEPTIC MAINTENANCE:** Gillian Hemstead reported that she would be meeting with the Township Administrator regarding this matter. Douglas Ott stated that he had contacted area septic companies and will report at the next meeting on the number of people who pump their tanks on a regular basis. A member suggested that the companies should contact their customers when it was time for septic pumping. The Commission discussed septic maintenance by the residents and agreed that education and communication are the key elements.

**SUSTAINABLE WEST MILFORD:** William Drew reported that there may be a conflict of interest with the Environmental Commission promoting Sustainable West Milford and their purpose.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**AUTUMN LIGHTS FESTIVAL:** The Commission discussed participation in the festival, and inquired about a banner for their table. Mr. Drew would check on fund availabilities for purchase of a banner. Rob Sparkes proposed a bus tour of the Township that would include both environmental and historic sites. He had inquired about a Township bus, and noted that registration would be required by residents wishing to participate. The Commission concurred with the proposal. He will report at the next meeting on more details.

## **MINUTES**

**MOTION** to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2007 regular meeting. On voice vote all eligible members voted in the affirmative.

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

William Drew reviewed the following notices for applicants who applied for a Highlands Applicability Determination:

Sunny Blue, LLC (Walgreens), Block 5701; Lot 1, 1502-12 Union Valley Road.

Neil Chiarello, Burlington Drive, Block 12305; Lot 17.02, application for exemption.

The following are Determinations from the DEP regarding the following applications:

Vincent Lanza, 775 Macopin Road, Block 12108, Lot 1; Exemption #2, Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent

Vincent Lanza, 783 Macopin Road, Block 12110; Lot 5.01; Exemption #2, Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent

Smith Single Family Home, 1138 Westbrook Road, Block 5010; Lot 3; Exemption #1, Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent

Renzland single Family Home, 900 Burnt Meadow Road, Block 4601; Lot 16; Exemption # 1, Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The following correspondence was received by the Township Planning Department:

Letter from the NJ DEP dated June 28, 2007 regarding Reflection Lakes Garden Apts., Draft Surface Water Renewal Permit Action – Category A - Sanitary Wastewater

Notice from the NJ League of Municipalities of New Jersey regarding legislative passage of a new Municipal Notification Act for all site remediation work.

Letter dated July 19, 2007 from McKittrick Engineering Associates, Inc. advising that Robert Mazzocchi is reapplying for a Treatment Works Approval for property located on Club House Trail, Block 504; Lot 1.

Letter dated July 20, 2007 from Irene Kropp, Assistant Commissioner, Site Remediation, advising the Township of the status of the remediation of the A-Z Automotive site, 1692 Union Valley Road.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Noise Ordinance Waiver approval letter from Richard Kunze, Township Administrator dated July 17, 2007 to the NJ DOT – authorizing necessary repairs to be performed during the night hours.

Copy of letter dated July 21, 2007 from Richard Meany, Sr. to the Passaic Valley Water Commission regarding monitoring of Total Trihalomethene (TTHM) at High Crest Lake .

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one wished to speak.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby  
Secretary