

**Township of West Milford  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**January 9, 2023**

**Main Meeting Room**

The January 9, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor, Don Weise, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: James Lyons, James Rogers.

**PRESENTATIONS** – None.

**APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW** - None.

**ON GOING BUSINESS**

**Greenway Project** – Chairman Sangle advised that Councilman Michael Chazukow has not provided an update on the status of the easements that may be required for this project. With regard to the “Proposal – Explore the Highlands” for outdoor recreation opportunities, Commissioner Don Weise advised that he and Commissioner Jim Lyons had been working on this concept for several months and felt that it should be incorporated into the Greenway Plan. He emphasized the potential for increased and expanded trail use and other recreational activities in the Township, which could provide employment opportunities and an increase in visitors to the Township, as well as a boost for local business. He noted that the NY-NJ Trail Conference maintains 100+ miles of trails in the Township, and with the expansion of trailheads and parking facilities, there is an opportunity to advance the recreation landscape. Mr. Weise reported that, although New Jersey is sorely lacking in sufficient funding for state parks and recreation, a meeting was held with the Highlands Council and they were receptive to working with the NJDEP in advancing recreational activities in the Highlands region. The proposal – Explore the Highlands – was prepared for consideration and inclusion into the Greenway Plan. Chairman Sangle remarked that the concept was more aligned with an economic development plan, and Mr. Weise noted that the more entities that become involved, more opportunities for expanded economic growth would be created. Chairman Sangle suggested that this matter should be discussed independently from the Environmental Commission, adding that it may be more beneficial to get the endorsement of the Governing Body. Mr. Weise advised that the Highlands Council planned to meet with the Administration and Council on this matter.

**Belchers Creek Testing:** No report was available.

**Lakes Committee:** No meeting was held recently – the next meeting will be held in March.

**Open Space Committee:** Don Weise had nothing new to report on Open Space matters at this time.

**Shade Tree Committee:** No update at this time.

**Community Forestry Management Plan:** No update was available at this time.

**Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission** – Commissioner Doug Trainor did not have any update on the grant for Greenwood Lake.

**Environmental Contamination Issues:** Commissioner Tom Tamayne reported on the contamination issues he received and those listed on the agenda.

**Environmental Boardwalk** – Tom Tamayne advised that the NJ State authorized trapper caught two beavers from the Maple Road site. He will continue during the period that the license permits trapping.

**Green Team–Sustainability Committee:** No update at this time.

### **NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS**

**Tree Removal Ordinances** – The Commission reviewed the revisions to the Draft Tree Removal ordinance. Chairman Sangle advised that dollar amounts and fees should not be listed in the ordinance since this is something that the Governing Body will determine. He reviewed the process for farm assessment for tree farms and submission of a forest management plan, noting that forest management plans are submitted to the Tax Assessor and New Jersey Forestry office in Newton NJ, not to the Township Forester. The Commission discussed the issue of tree removal of less than 5 trees per acre related to the circumference of the tree, noting that more paperwork work is being created unnecessarily and they concurred that it should be left up to the residents to determine. They agreed that if a tree is more than 30 inches in diameter, a permit will be required. Chris Garcia inquired if there were any provisions for tree removal in wetlands to avoid an increase in stormwater runoff. Commissioner Doug Trainor observed that trees shade the streams and if they are removed, the water temperature will increase and this will affect the fish. With regard to tree removal applications, Chairman Sangle noted that enforcement will be an issue, but someone on the Township staff, or a consultant, with the credentials and knowledge, will be required to review the tree removal applications. Commissioner Tom Tamayne commented that the residents generally will monitor and report tree removal incidents. Chairman Sangle had suggested shared services with other communities, or have a DPW staff member obtain certification/training. This draft tree ordinance will be further reviewed at the next Commission meeting before it is sent to the Administration and Council for consideration.

**Recycled Materials** – Tom Tamayne inquired if the Commission might consider contacting Amazon, Walmart and Target regarding recycling of boxes for all the at-home deliveries made in the Township. Chris Garcia mentioned a program, Teracycle, and suggested that Shop Rite might be interested in this venture. It was noted that the Township recycling program has curbside collection of cardboard.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes from the December 12, 2022 Environmental Commission meeting were unanimously **approved** on a **motion** by Tom Tamayne and a **second** by Chairman Stephen Sangle.

### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

*The following correspondence was reviewed by the Commission:*

#### **Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence**

1. None.

### **NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence**

1. Suspected Hazardous Discharge notification #22-12-15-1204-09, dated Dec. 16, 2022, regarding the Tennessee Gas Pipeline, 960 Burnt Meadow Rd, Block 4601; Lot 17, for reported spill of fluids (hydraulic oil) from a “blown hydraulic line on a piece of equipment.” Clean up was in progress.
2. Suspected Hazardous Discharge notification #22-12-14-0924-41, dated Dec. 15, 2022, regarding the Tennessee Gas Pipeline, 960 Burnt Meadow Rd, Block 4601; Lot 17, for reported material spill from a “belly pan on a dozer.” Clean up was in progress.
3. Suspected Hazardous Discharge notification #22-12-09-0936-12, dated Dec. 10, 2022, regarding the Waste Water Treatment Plant at 1 Beacon Hill Rd., Block 7801; Lot 65 – RVC bearing broke on single stage RVC - Ground water disposal treatment tool that treats incoming raw sewage progress – Ethylene going into the ground. No waterways affected.
4. NJDEP Letter of Interpretation Extension application notice, dated Dec. 15, 2022, received from Tennessee Gas Pipeline, regarding 960 Burnt Meadow Road, Block 4601; Lot 17, requesting an additional 5 year extension of the LOI.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. HEPSCD certification of soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated November 30, 2022, received for Pecoraro Henderson Barn, 169 Henderson Road, Block 17001; Lot 6.
2. HEPSCD re-certification of soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated November 23, 2022, received for Sisco Pole Barn, 38 Castle Rock Road, Block 2202; Lot 1.01.
3. ANJEC Members – Electric Vehicles in New Jersey, Jan. 24, 2023, 7:00 Virtual Roundtable, registration required.
4. Princeton Hydro Newsletter – 2022 Success Stories.
5. The Land Conservancy of NJ – 2022 in Review.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the January 9, 2023 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:30 p.m. on a **motion** by Chairman Stephen Sangle and a **second** by Tom Tamayne.

Approved: February 6, 2023

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary