

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

April 4, 2022

Main Meeting Room

The April 4, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Stephen Sangle beginning at 8:32 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

*This regular meeting was preceded by an informal discussion on the proposed Greenway project with Christopher Garcia.

ROLL CALL

Present: James Lyons – via phone call, James Rogers, Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor, Don Weise, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Christopher Garcia.

PRESENTATIONS - None

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

SCALFANI

Bulk Variance #ZB-06-21-11

Block 4201; Lot 4

67 Lake Park Terrace; LR Zone

Seeking: Bulk Variances from the Board of Adjustment for construction of a new 20 ft x 20 ft garage in front of house with variances for front yard setback where 40 ft is required, 48.88 ft exists, and 24.8 ft is proposed; side yard setback (L) where 30 ft is required, 12.1 ft exists, and 12.1 ft is proposed; side yard setback where 30 ft is required, 13.31 ft exists and 13.3 ft is proposed; building lot coverage where 10% is permitted, 17.4% exists, and 23.2% is proposed (house, garage, deck, porch).

The Commission reviewed the above referenced Board of Adjustment application requesting multiple bulk variances to construct a new garage in the front yard. Subsequent to their review of the plans prepared by Houser Engineering, dated 02-09-22, the Commission made the following comments:

- The Commission expressed concern about the additional stormwater runoff that will occur with the increased impervious surface from the new structure, and recommended that appropriate mitigation strategies and methods be indicated on the plans.
- The Commission suggested that the applicant consider gutters and leaders, as well as rain barrels, to handle the additional stormwater runoff due to the property being in close proximity to Greenwood Lake.

ZIELINSKI

Use Variance #ZB-02-22-02

Block 603; Lot 8, 9

24 Witte Road; LR Zone

Seeking: Use Variance approval for the elimination of a lot line between two existing lots, creating one lot with two dwellings.

The Commission reviewed the above referenced Board of Adjustment application requesting use variance approval to combine two lots into one. Subsequent to their review of the plans prepared by McKittrick Engineering Assoc., dated 02-29-22, the Commission found no environmental concerns with the proposed variance request.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Belchers Creek Testing: A quote for the new equipment was received by Hanna Instruments in the amount of \$489.11 for new phosphate and nitrate testing kits. The secretary advised that the budget request for the Commission must be approved by the Governing Body before we can submit the order for the equipment.

The latest testing indicates a high nitrate reading, and this may be the cause of increased weeds in Greenwood Lake.

Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: AAR-Annual Accomplish Report–CEU’s required for 2020 & 21 – Jim Lyons advised that he will review the CFMP and will send a memo to the Chair regarding his review. Mr. Lyons had advised previously that he has a background in forestry but is not a certified forester.

NNL Reforestation Grant: Chairman Sangle advised that he provided all the information to the Administrator following extensive surveys by several Commissioners of the trees that were planted. A recommendation regarding the trees that need to be replanted was also provided in the report. No update at this time.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Doug Trainor reported that Paul Zarrillo had been appointed Chair for 2 years. It was reported that the weed harvester needs repairs. The GWLC also discussed dock numbering and a plan for a boat launch at Brown’s Point, but tree clean-up of the site is required. Chris Garcia commented that many of the large damaged trees were gone from the site, but smaller trees remained from a prior storm. Jim Rogers remarked that the portajohn and waste receptacles have been removed and the Township is not maintaining the site at this time. He expressed disappointment that the site is not being maintained since it is a great location, but understood the Township not continuing to maintain a State facility without funding to subsidize the financial cost for upkeep. The Commissioners expressed concern about Brown’s Point not being maintained and debris collecting at the site. They noted that this could have been a possible launch for kayaks.

Lakes Committee: Jim Rogers advised that the Lakes Committee met on March 21, 2022 and had two guest speakers. He was unable to attend the March meeting. Chairman Sangle suggested that the Lakes Committee could be invited to a group meeting to discuss options for recreation.

Open Space Committee: Don Weise had nothing new to report at this and referenced the discussion that preceded this regular meeting. He was also in contact with a Dr. Boscarino of the NY/NJ Trail Conference who heads up a citizen science team and strike force, and he will try to arrange a presentation for the Commission on invasive species. The Commission suggested May or June for a presentation. Mr. Weise will forward the information to the Commission Secretary.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reviewed the environmental contamination notices received by the Commission.

Environmental Boardwalk: Tom Tamayne met with Lake Sciences Management with regard to the phragmite control. They suggested using a quad on the boardwalk to spray and reach about 25 feet from the boardwalk. The process will take about two years if they spray twice a year. The herbicide that they use will kill the phragmites, but it is approximately \$1500. Per application. After spraying the vegetation will need to be removed which will

require the assistance of the DPW or hiring a contractor for the removal. Chairman Sangle suggested that the funds can be used from Open Space, and he will contact the Administrator regarding this. Mr. Tamayne also reported that there may be a location at the boardwalk site that a stonebed can be installed so that the entire site can be reached for treatment. The site will have to be treated once a year to maintain after the initial project is completed. The contractor will require permits from the NJDEP for the treatments.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Greenway Project: An informal discussion took place on this matter prior to this regular meeting. The Commission concurred that the Environmental Commission, Economic Development Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission could meet quarterly to share ideas on what they are doing and how they can combine their efforts. The meetings can take place at 6 pm prior to the regular EC meetings. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Bubbling Springs – ANJEC 2022 Grant - The OSS Grant for 2022 from ANJEC was due May 2, 2022. Chairman Sangle reported that Dan Kochakji had prepared a sketch for the Bubbling Springs Nature Walk, and if the funds are awarded by the grant, the architect will do the proposal/design. Jim Rogers advised that the grant is basically good to go.

Plastic Pollution Reduction Act - The new law goes into effect on May 4, 2022 and Jim Rogers reviewed several of the details of the law. The municipalities are required to inform and educate the public. Chairman Sangle requested that Mr. Rogers prepare a press release for the newspapers on the new law regarding plastic bags. The secretary will also place the information on the township website.

MINUTES

The minutes from the March 7, 2022 Environmental Commission meeting were approved on a **motion** by Jim Rogers with a **second** by Steve Sangle.

The following items were reviewed by the Commission and filed:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. Notice from NJ Highlands Council regarding a Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking – Adopt Rules for Prohibiting Development in Certain Wildfire Hazard Areas.
2. Highlands Preservation Area – Resource Area Determination – Footprint of Disturbance, dated March 3, 2022, received for AT&T (Cell Tower), 325 Lakeside Road, Block 3101; Lot 7-8, advising that Highlands resources are located in the proposed footprint of disturbance as shown on the site plan submitted, but the activities proposed within this area are not considered a major Highlands development.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. NJDEP Ground Water Remedial Action Permit, dated April 1, 2022, received for BP Service Station #4300, PI# 000986, 2897 Rt. 23, Block 15804; Lot 18.
2. Notification dated March 16, 2022, received from Kleinfelder regarding an application being submitted to the NJDEP for a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit and Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #2 for Rockland Electric proposal to construct underground to overhead transition structure within an existing right of way for RECO's 69kV transmission lines (983 & 084) to supply a new electric-driven natural gas compressor station for Tennessee Gas Pipeline at 960 Burnt Meadow Road. A duct bank and concrete casing will be installed for electric and communication transmission lines.

3. Notification from The Land Conservancy dated March 11, 2022 advising that an application is being submitted to the NJDEP to establish boundary of environmental features at the Westbrook II Preserve, Block 9201; Lots 1, 2, 3, 5, 1228 Westbrook Road, with the objective to improve water quality and enhance habitat for wildlife by removing the dam/weir, eliminating the barrier to aquatic wildlife movement. Invasive Plant species in the surrounding wetland complex will be controlled and replaced with wetland seeds and shrubs, with trees and shrubs planted in open forest and pasture areas to provide shelter for wildlife.
4. Notification dated March 16, 2022 received from CP Engineers regarding NJDEP Treatment Works Approval applications being submitted for Suez Water NJ, for Awosting, Birch Hill, Bald Eagle Village, Bald Eagle Commons, Old Milford Estates, Highview Acres, Crescent Park for various upgrades including installation of Frac Tanks at Awosting, Birch Hill and Bald Eagle Village, and addition of chemicals at all of the sites.
5. Suspected Hazardous Substance notice received from the NJDEP, dated March 9, 2022, regarding 25 Charissa Court, Block 102; Lot 21.

Miscellaneous

1. NJ Forest Stewardship Task Force - Forum 04-28-22 - 4pm - njforesttaskforce@gmail.com.
2. NJDEP – April FREC Events – Forest Resource Education Center.
3. NJUCF News & Updates – 04-01-22
4. HEPSCD Re-certification of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated February 24, 2022, received for Village on Ridge, Eagles Nest Terrace, Burma Ct., Heritage Dr.
5. HEPSCD Certification of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated February 24, 2022, received for Jonczyk Heritage SFD, Block 5204; Lot 7.
6. HEPSCD Certification of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated February 18, 2022, received for Duchi-Zhao Heritage SFD, Block 5204; Lot 6.
7. HEPSCD Certification of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, dated February 10, 2022, received for Klapacz Garage Addition, Block 10102; Lot 10.
8. Doris Aaronson – Celebration of Life – 04-24-22 Pinecliff Lake Clubhouse 2 - 4

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sangle advised that the next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2022. With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the April 4, 2022 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 9:40 p.m. on a **motion** by Don Weise and a **second** by Tom Tamayne.

Approved: June 6, 2022

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary