

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

December 7, 2020

Virtual Meeting - Via Zoom

The December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was held virtually via Zoom beginning at 7:00 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Dalton, Janet Little, David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Douglas Trainor, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: Thomas Tamayne, Don Weise.

Chairman Sangle requested Alternate member Janet Little to sit in for Tom Tamayne.

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Belchers Creek Testing: Commissioner Jim Rogers provided an update on the ongoing Belchers Creek testing. He reported that between 11/26/20 and 11/29/20, seven (7) samples were taken at six (6) different locations. He thanked Commissioner Doug Trainor for completing the sampling at numerous sites. Commissioner Dave Ofshinsky commented that the Commissioners should be testing at the same locations each testing period, but Mr. Trainor responded that he attempted to go to other sites located near the usual testing sites to obtain varied readings. Chairman Sangle noted that the North, South, and Central locations around Pinecliff Lake would be the best locations where the samples should be obtained. Mr. Ofshinsky noted that he currently tests Belchers Creek by the Suez STP at Crescent Park, Janet Little tested the John Street site, and Jim Rogers tested John Street and Brown's Point. Mr. Rogers observed that he had readings of 7.4 for Nitrates, while Mr. Ofshinsky had readings of 0 below the Suez plant by Crescent Park. The Chairman remarked that he believed that a number above 3 exceeded the allowable limit, and Mr. Ofshinsky noted that each plant has its own permit number and requirements to meet. The Commission discussed the disparity between results at the same locations. Mr. Trainor suggested that the testing kit had older reagents that may have something to do with the random results, and remarked that the next testing protocols may give an indication. Chairman Sangle advised that there was a large tree across Belchers Creek, near Wallisch property, and Mr. Rogers said that he will check on this. The Commissioners concurred that testing would continue for several more weeks until the temperature/weather makes it difficult. The Commissioners also agreed to take the samples and drop the testing equipment off to one person. Doug Trainor suggested that a pole saw for Belchers Creek be purchased to trim the overgrowth and brush. The Secretary advised that the Township policy requires all purchase orders for the year to be submitted before the first week of December, and only emergency purchases could be made at this time.

Shade Tree Committee: Tim Dalton had no update for the Commission. He has reached out to the Township but has not received a response.

Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: Tim Dalton has not had any response from the Township of this matter. He will try to contact someone in Public Works.

NJDEP NNL Forestry Grant Project Closeout: Tim Dalton had received no update from the Administrator on this matter.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Janet Little reported that the GWLC was concerned about funding for the lake. They are working on getting approval for a public boat ramp for Greenwood Lake to be located at Brown's Point. The GWLC is also trying to secure a new location for their office and have been in contact with the owner of the West Milford Lake property. Chairman Sangle advised that a study by Princeton Hydro, funded through a grant, had been conducted on the lake for the creation of a wildlife refuge after the dam was breached by the NJDEP, but the property was subsequently purchased by the current owner who then became responsible for repairing or breaching the dam. The owner has proposed several scenarios attempting to develop the site or use it in an exchange for development of property in another municipality. Chairman Sangle remarked that the Environmental Commission was very involved with the plans that were developed and considered for the site from studies completed in 2006 to 2008.

Lakes Committee: Jim Rogers reported that the Lakes committee met on November 16, 2020 and discussed the Highlands Watershed Management Plan. Princeton Hydro will be providing a proposal for their services to complete the study/plan, which will include all bodies of water of a certain size, including Belchers Creek. He reported that the Committee discussed ice retardant treatments for various lakes. Chairman Sangle commented that Pinecliff Lakes used to have a "bubbler". Mr. Rogers noted that the private lakes request to be exempt from having to use the devices which are used around the docks to keep ice from forming and damaging the docks. Chairman Sangle commented that there was a concern about people getting hurt by the devices or falling in the water where the ice is prevented from forming. Mr., Rogers also reported that weed remediation will be accomplished through the use of chemical applications at Mt. Laurel Lake, and although many were not in favor, they understand that it is necessary to alleviate the conditions caused by extensive weeds in the water body.

Open Space Committee: In the absence of Don Weise, Chairman Sangle reported that we have not received a recent update from TLC - The Land Conservancy. He advised that TLC has obtained funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the Highlands Council for the Updated Open Space and Recreation Plan, which would leave a balance of \$4,000. for the Township to fund from the Open Space account.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reviewed the correspondence listed on the agenda. He had provided a report to the Commission from his monthly review of the ongoing Suez plant upgrades.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee: There was nothing to report at this time.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Update on Environmental Boardwalk Maintenance: Chairman Sangle reported that Tom Tamayne had coordinated the use of a trapper and issuance of a permit with the NJDEP and the Township. The DPW had disassembled the dam that had been recently built by the beavers.

Update on Suez Treatment Plants – Mr. Tamayne had provided a report to the Commission via email on the Suez upgrades. Doug Trainor noted that he will speak to the Bald Eagle Village manager to get an update on Suez's upgrades at the B.E. Sewer Treatment plant.

Pinecliff Lake Association – Acquisition of Block 7215; Lot 1, Union Valley Road, 1.86 acres.

Review of WMEC Meeting Dates for 2021: The Environmental Commission meeting dates were approved on a motion by Jim Rogers with a second by Tim Dalton.

MINUTES

The minutes from the November 2, 2020 Commission meeting would be available for approval at the next Commission meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

The Commission reviewed the following correspondence:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. HAD – Exempt #11 correspondence received from the NJ Highlands Council, dated October 16, 2020, advising that the proposed East 300 Upgrade Project for a Tennessee Gas Pipeline Compressor Station for Block 4601; Lot 17, advising that this project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Highlands Water Protection Act.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Public Notification Fact Sheet, dated October 27, 2020, from Acadis U.S., Inc. and Chevron Environmental Management Company (CEMC), regarding the Former Texaco Service Station #211126, 1457 Union Valley Road, Block 7601; Lot 2, NJDEP PIN #451229, NJDEP Case #85-05-2004-00, advising that the current remediation to address chemical contaminants detected has been ongoing since 1987, and is expected to be completed by May 2023, with groundwater monitoring at the site, quarterly monitoring of the POET systems at four houses, and annual monitoring of 13 private wells offsite of the subject property.

2. Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District (HEPSCD) certification, dated September 2, 2020, regarding a soil erosion and sediment control plan for Monteforte Rocky Point Road SFD Reconstruction, Block 3405; Lot 8.

3. NJDEP - No Further Action correspondence, dated Nov. 9, 2020, received for 123 Kitchell Lake Drive, Block 4801; Lot 17, regarding removal of a 1000 gallon #2 HO UST.

4. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification, dated November 24, 2020, received for Suez Water NJ, Block 5308; Lot 1 and Block 5501; Lot 21 regarding excess nitrogen (17.7 mg/l) on an allowance of 10 mg/l. Plant discharges to groundwater.

5. NJDEP Freshwater Wetlands Permit #11, dated November 24, 2020, received for Kingwood Flex, LLC, Block 6401; Lots 1 & 3, regarding authorization of the construction of an outfall structure and restoration of a transition area in association with a building addition and reconfiguration of an existing parking lot.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. ANJEC News, Stormwater Webinar, Brownfields Webinar, Dec. 2, 2020.

2. New Jersey Forestry Assoc. – Manage Your Dying Ash – Dec. 3, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the December 7, 2020 regular meeting held via Zoom was **adjourned** at 8:15 p.m. on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and a **second** by Jim Rogers.

Approved: March 1, 2021

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary