

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Tom McKeon
Frank Pallotta, Planning Board Liaison
Carol Phiefer
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Karin LaGreca

The minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by McKeon. Pallotta abstained. All other present members were in favor.

New Appointment

Wolf welcomed new member Frank Pallotta to the Commission.

DPW Recycling Update

Wolf welcomed DPW Director Glenn Dowson and Foreman John Soha to the meeting for an update on the status of recycling in town and to discuss our recycling priorities in 2019. Dowson said the biggest problem in town at this time is plastic bags. Soha said logistics is also represents a significant challenge for DPW. The DPW plans to add two part-time employees to staff the recycling center.

From an awareness standpoint, we would like to continue to educate residents about what can and cannot be recycled, as well as the importance of not creating the waste in the first place. Wolf said in the coming year we would like to host a recycling forum to educate the public. Dowson is also working on a new recycling booklet for residents. McKeon volunteered to assist.

Election of Members

Seibert made a motion to nominate Richard Wolf as Chair for 2019; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

Ariemma made a motion to nominate Richard Seibert as Vice Chair for 2019; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Toll NJ IV, LLC, 1 Braeburn Court, Block 121, Lot 42, E-BD-216-3116

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a new single-family dwelling on the property.

Comments to Administrative Officer

The Commission noted several concerns:

- The proposed elevations around the trees may kill the remaining trees on the property. We also believe there are no existing trees on the property. Please have the applicant clarify on the drawings.
- The drainage proposed will funnel run-off from an open area into drainage into the street. If the lawn area does not take properly, this may lead to mud/silt runoff issues. We are also concerned about running stormwater drainage directly into the stormwater system.

The application review was rejected subject to further information following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. All were in favor.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

Innovation Labs, LLC, 1111 MacArthur Blvd., Block 136, Lot 15, TA18-0044

Administrative offices, light manufacturing, research laboratory and warehousing

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of a Response Action Outcome for 120 Moffatt Road
- Resolution from Emerson opposing the construction of a gas-powered North Bergen Liberty Generating Station.
- Email from a resident who would like to replace a cherry tree on her property
- Email Newsletters from the Hackensack Riverkeeper and NY/NJ Trail Conference
- Email from the NJ Shade Tree Federation
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

OLD BUSINESS**Apple Ridge Pumping Update**

Ariemma forwarded an email to the Commission from Upper Saddle River resident Derek Michalski to Assemblywoman Schepisi pertaining to the pumping taking place on the site. Michalski emailed new photographs of the pumping that is occurring all over the property. Wolf said Boswell Engineering is still conducting ongoing surface water testing for lead and arsenic, and he believes Toll Brothers is doing everything in accordance with federal and state drinking water standards. Pallotta said he is still very concerned about the levels in the water, though if Toll Brothers is acting in accordance

with federal and state regulations there is little we can do on that end. Wolf said he is more concerned about the turbidity of the water and what is being pumped downstream. He suggested we wait to see how the Assemblywoman's Office responds before proceeding with anything further.

NEW BUSINESS

ANJEC 2019 Dues

The Commission received an invoice for our 2019 ANJEC Membership Dues. Seibert made a motion to approve our membership dues in the amount of \$350; seconded by Phiefer. All members were in favor. Storms will prepare and submit for payment.

2019 Projects

Wolf asked what members would like to focus on in the coming year. Ariemma said she would like to focus on tree planting and the tree giveaway. Wolf said we already submitted for 1,000 trees this year, but we also have the option to purchase additional seedlings should we wish to pursue it. Wolf will forward the information to Ariemma to handle.

Members also discussed the following priorities for 2019:

- Recycling forum and community awareness
- Community awareness environmental films at the library
- Bike path feasibility study
- Reusable bags for Mahwah Day
- Rain Garden updates

Informational Article

Seibert distributed a recent article regarding the Midland Park Borough Council raising the household limits to encourage dog licensing.

Upcoming Initiatives

Council President David May was in attendance to observe the meeting. He said it would be great to show a recycling video on the Mahwah Cable channel, and suggested we reach out to the high school to have students help produce it. He would also like to learn more about composting. On June 8, the county is coordinating a hazardous waste collection event at Campgaw. Council President May said he would like to schedule some volunteer tire collection dates on Stag Hill prior to the hazardous waste collection.

Gun Range Update

John Fesen, 20 Falcon Court, said the gun range has gotten progressively louder since the renovations. He said he is also concerned about the possible airborne lead contamination occurring from the discharge of weapons on the site. Wolf said this is more of a health concern because of the noise and lead. Fesen said he is coordinating a grassroots effort to enclose the range. He plans to come to our next meeting and give a presentation on the issue.

Town Development

Fesen asked how the Environmental Commission is involved in the approval process for development around town. Wolf explained the Environmental Commission's role in the review process.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. following a motion by Wolf; seconded by McKeon. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary