

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by Richard Reilly. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Karin LaGreca
Richard Reilly
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf (arrived at 7:47 p.m.)
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Michael Devaney

Absent: Carol Phiefer

There was no quorum present to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2016. Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

Wolf welcomed the new Commission members. He said he looks forward to working with everyone in the coming years.

NEW BUSINESS

New Environmental Commission Members

The new and returning members introduced themselves. Storms distributed a contact list.

Garbage/Recycling Bins

Seibert showed a picture of the recycling bins we purchased last year. Ariemma asked if the town has ever considered bear-proof garbage cans, which falls outside of our purview.

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Members nominated Rich Wolf for Chair. All members were in favor. Seibert volunteered for Vice Chair, Wolf seconded. All members were in favor.

Jonathan Marcus

Wolf thanked Jonathan Marcus for his years of involvement on the Commission and wished him the best. All members seconded.

Robotics Team Clean Water Initiative

Wolf has been in contact with a local student who is part of a student team developing special nitrogen-eliminating filters to clean waterways to protect wildlife. The team

would like to test the filters in Mahwah. Wolf said this may be a great initiative to incorporate into our Sustainable Jersey certification.

Composting Initiative

Wolf has been in contact with a Ramapo student who would like to expand a Ramapo composting program into a township-wide program. Wolf is going to continue working with her to see if we can get something rolling. LaGreca suggested we gauge community interest at the next Mahwah Day or undertake a pilot program.

Grant Opportunity for Sustainable Jersey Certification Actions

We received an email from the Land Conservancy offering grant application assistance to towns involved in Sustainable Jersey.

Tree Recovery Campaign 2017

Wolf said we are on the list again to receive applications from the Department of Environmental Protection. Last year we received 1,000 trees to giveaway and it was a huge success. We plan to ask for 2,000 trees this year. Ariemma said she will mention it at tomorrow's council meeting. Devaney suggested we reach out on our Facebook page to ask residents to take current pictures. Storms will follow up.

Recycling Bins - Continued

Wolf gave the new members a recap on last year's recycling bin distribution.

Renewables Handout

Seibert distributed an information handout regarding worldwide renewable energy rankings.

Water Issues

Devaney said a few weeks ago, the water in his house was brown. He said he called the town and was told there had recently been a water main break. Devaney asked if there was any way to post announcements so residents are aware of such things in their neighborhoods. That in turn led to a discussion about the importance of water conservation. Wolf suggested we make water conservation awareness our priority this year.

ANJEC 2017 Dues

Wolf made a motion to pay dues/workshop fees in the amount of \$360 (\$300 for 2017 Membership Dues for up to 7 members and \$60 for the ANJEC Workshop Plan). Reilly seconded. All members were in favor.

Lake Henry Cleanup

LaGreca said she cannot undertake the Lake Henry cleanup she usually does with her Ramapo students. Wolf suggested we keep it in mind to do something in conjunction with Earth Day.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

Wolf described our permit application review process for the new commission members.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following Soil Movement Permit Applications were reviewed:

Richard Queen, Esq., 11 Peterson Place, Block 139, Lot 28.01, E-BD-216-2953

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application for the excavation of the property for a new, single-family residence. The Tree Preservation Application indicates 15 trees will be removed.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

While the soil movement is acceptable, the Tree Preservation Application indicates 15 trees will be removed, however the site plan indicates a total of 26 trees will be removed. Please note that for every four trees removed, one replacement must be made for a total of seven replacements. Of the 26 trees to be removed, we feel 17 trees at the back of the property can remain. Please resubmit for further review.

The Soil Movement Permit Application was approved following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. All were in favor.

The Tree Preservation Application was rejected pending further clarification.

Ken Ramirez, 149 Miller Road, Block 75, Lot 12, E-BD-216-2957

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a home addition.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please note that under the soil movement permit application “Description of Soil to be Moved,” the figures need correction (page 1). The applicant needs to either add to “Fill” or “Export” the 241 cubic yards “Cut” and “Imported.”

The application was approved following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. All were in favor.

Krzystof Kurnat, 397 Forest Road, Block 173, Lot 94, E-BD-216-2958

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application for a home addition, which includes digging for the foundation and walk-out basement. The Tree Preservation Application indicates there will be no tree removal or replacement.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please note that under the soil movement permit application “Description of Soil to be Moved,” the figures need correction (page 1). The amount of soil imported should equal the amount of soil exported.

The applications were approved following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. All were in favor.

Izmit Rizvani, 87 Brookwood Drive, Block 120, Lot 92, E-BD-216-2963

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a home and driveway addition/expansion.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:
Commission members noted work has already started.

The application was approved following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Reilly. All were in favor.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Pinnacle Learning Center, 109 West Ramapo Avenue, Block 56, Lot 65, TA16-0045
Pre-school

MDBIOSYSTEMS, 300 K Route 17 South, Block 137, Lot 1, TA16-0049
Robotic test equipment

Yuan Yuan Spa, 107-109 Miller Road, Block 72, Lots 16-17, TA16-0051
Foot reflexology

Tri-State Turbocharger, LLC, 1 Scherer Place, Block 71, Lot 13, TA16-0052
Resale of industrial turbochargers (non-auto)

Comments:
Please check with applicant if they have procedures to handle oil or any other chemicals in equipment being dropped off for disposal.

Artistically Abled, LLC, 90 Franklin Turnpike, Suite 3, Block 71, Lots 18-19, TA16-0053
Inclusive extra-curricular art classes for children of mixed ages and abilities

Jersey Italian Gravy, LLC, 1 Scherer Place, Block 71, Lot 13, TA16-0054
Food manufacturing

Albright, LLC, 60 Whitney Road, Unit 3, Block 173, Lot 145, TA16-0055
Electrical contracting, lighting and installation

WO Appliances, Inc., 1013 MacArthur Blvd., Block 138, Lot 151.01, TA16-0056
Kitchen design and sale of appliances

E. McCauley Custom Homes, LLC, 200 Route 17 South #118, Block 132 Lot 11, TA17-0001
Contractor

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email from AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador
- Copy of a letter from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection regarding Treatment Works Approval No. 16-0270 for the Estates at Apple Ridge
- Copy of a letter from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection regarding an Area of Concern: One 1000-gallon #2 Heating Oil Underground Storage Tank System for 31 Fairmount Avenue, Block 173, Lot 106
- Copy of a letter from the Applied Earth Solutions, Inc. regarding the Former U-Save Service Station located at 231 Route 17, Block 59, Lots 20 & 21
- Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 12, Dec. 2016
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

OLD BUSINESS

Rain Garden Update

LaGreca asked about the status of the Winter's Pond Rain Garden. We received \$1,500 from Orange & Rockland in 2016. We are still awaiting their funding determination for 2017.

Campgaw Road Issue

Devaney asked for an update on the status of the construction at 635 Campgaw Road. The property owner was cited regarding the unacceptable site conditions and asked to provide a schedule of when the issues will be addressed.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:19 p.m. following a motion by Reilly; seconded by Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary