

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma  
Michael Devaney  
Karin LaGreca  
Carol Phiefer  
Richard Seibert  
Richard Wolf

Mayor William Laforet  
John Fesen, 20 Falcon Court  
Peggy Bost, 121 Deerhaven Road  
Van Trat, MEVO  
Angela Capalbo, MEVO  
Allie Grinkevich, MEVO

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Richard Reilly  
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on January 10, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by LaGreca; seconded by Seibert. Devaney abstained. All other members were in favor.

**MEVO Presentation**

The MEVO group gave an update on MEVO's Stag Hill research. MEVO said volunteers removed 65,000 lbs of garbage and 1,450 tires over the course of the last year. The group distributed MEVO's 2018 Remediation Project Budget, which will be presented to Town Council.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2018 Water Quality Summit**

Wolf distributed a draft agenda for a Water Forum. He also proposed holding the forum on Thursday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. in either the courtroom or the senior center. The group discussed the agenda topics, including a presentation from our water department, stormwater runoff and water conservation.

Mayor Laforet said he would like to push the forum up to an earlier date, due to emerging resident concerns regarding water quality throughout the region. Resident Peg Bost

asked if we can allow residents to tour one of our water plants. Mayor Laforet suggested we schedule a time to meet at the Stag Hill plant for a tour. He also suggested members develop a list of questions that can be presented to representatives in advance of the meeting. Wolf is going to meet with Mayor Laforet sometime next week to discuss in greater detail.

#### Sustainable Jersey Update

Wolf and LaGreca gave an update on the status of our Sustainable Jersey efforts.

#### Tree Giveaway

Members discussed possible dates and details for our annual tree giveaway, sometime around Arbor Day in April. Seibert distributed a draft newsletter article announcing the giveaway.

#### Orange & Rockland Vegetation Management Plan

Wolf received information from Orange & Rockland regarding the company's planned activities for transmission vegetation maintenance throughout town. He said he would like to have a representative attend a meeting in February, as well as the arborist we have on staff.

#### Tree Ordinance Proposed Amendments

Wolf distributed the draft amendments to our municipal tree ordinance. Ariemma discussed her concerns with some of the proposed changes.

#### Hiking, Biking Trail Article

Seibert distributed an informational article regarding an abandoned railway line from Pequannock to Wayne being turned into an asphalt trail for biking and hiking. Members discussed ideas for a bike path in town.

#### Ramapo College Student Research

LaGreca said she has two students who are interested in studying the wetlands in town. She is going to speak to the students for more information.

#### Rain Garden Update

LaGreca distributed a copy of the sign she would like to have made for display in the Rain Garden.

#### Floating Island

LaGreca met with the local Boy Scout Troop that is interested in donating supplies and materials to install an artificial floating island at Winter's Pond. She said she will present to Town Council on February 8 to request approval to install it.

#### Mahwah Earth Action Day

LaGreca said the event is now rescheduled for October 20, 2018.

#### Rabies Clinic

The annual rabies clinic is scheduled for this coming weekend. LaGreca said we need photos from the event for our Sustainable Jersey certification. Seibert and Ariemma will take photos.

### **SITE PLAN REVIEWS**

*None received*

### **SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

*None received*

### **TENANT APPLICATIONS**

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

Montvale Florist, 1 Lethbridge Plaza, Suite 15, Block 63, Lot 6, TA18-0003

*Florist*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email from Sustainable Jersey regarding certification
- Email newsletter from the Hackensack Riverkeeper
- Copy of a letter from Whitman amending a Response Action Outcome for 10 Industrial Avenue
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Gun Range Resident Concerns**

Resident John Fesen noted his concerns over the proposed renovations of the gun range. He has concerns over the noise levels at the range after the renovation. He would also like to know if the county or town has any decibel level benchmarks on the site. Ariemma said this was discussed briefly at a recent council meeting. Fesen also mentioned the wells on the site – some of which are inactive – and if that water is used for anything. He has concerns that the water may potentially be contaminated. Fesen said he would like to see the county work together with the town to renovate the gun range to the highest specifications. Fesen also plans to attend an upcoming county meeting to voice his concerns.

#### **2018 New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Invoice**

We received an invoice for our 2018 New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Membership in the amount of \$95. Wolf made a motion to submit in the amount of \$95; seconded by Devaney. All members were in favor. Storms will prepare and submit for payment.

#### **Member Resignation**

Richard Reilly has submitted his resignation on the Commission, effective immediately. Wolf accepted his resignation. Members discussed possible replacements. Wolf suggested Ward Donigian and resident Tom McKeon. Wolf said he will talk to each of them to see if they are interested.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Wolf. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms  
Secretary