

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Richard Wolf. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma  
Karin LaGreca  
Carol Phiefer  
Richard Reilly  
Richard Seibert  
Richard Wolf  
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Michael Devaney  
Visiting students from Suffern High School

The minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2016 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. Reilly, Ariemma and LaGreca abstained. All other members were in favor.

The minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Reilly; seconded by LaGreca. Phiefer abstained. All other members were in favor.

Wolf explained the role of the Environmental Commission to the visiting students.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Tree Recovery Campaign 2017**

Seibert spoke to Glenn Dowson of DPW regarding the Tree Recovery Campaign for 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 give away 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.

**Recycling Bin Giveaway**

Seibert followed up with DPW regarding last year's recycling bin giveaway. We would like to do two giveaways this year. Wolf said we should check to make sure DPW has the funding as part of the town's Clean Communities Grant. Storms will follow up.

**Rain Garden Update**

Wolf spoke to Orange & Rockland regarding our rain garden initiative. We are still awaiting their funding determination for 2017. Wolf said we are also looking at

additional grant opportunities from Sustainable Jersey and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey for installation of a community rain garden.

Wolf made a motion to pursue the Land Conservancy grant; seconded by LaGreca. All other members were in favor.

Wolf made a motion to pursue a grant through Sustainable Jersey; seconded by Seibert. All other members were in favor.

#### First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Team Clean Water Initiative

A local First Lego League (FLL) Robotics team with a Mahwah resident is competing in a national competition. Parts of their required tasks involve selecting a community service project. The team has selected to identify the potential impact that chemical runoff (i.e. nitrogen) has on local wildlife and natural resources (streams and rivers). Since Mahwah has limited information on the types and amounts of chemical runoff through our storm water systems, the team has developed a plan to create a filter and measuring devices that would be placed in our local streams and rivers to gather information. They are requesting funding of up to \$2,000 to make the devices. The information gathered would be analyzed by the team and presented to the Environmental Commission to determine if there is a risk to local wildlife and water supply. Wolf said this may be a great initiative to incorporate into our Sustainable Jersey certification.

Wolf made a motion to pursue a grant for the initiative; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

#### 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. He said if we want to pursue it we should consider an area in town where we could undertake a pilot program. LaGreca said MEVO is interested in participating in the initiative.

#### Ramapo Ridge Tree Removal

Reilly asked if there were any updates on the tree removal plan for Ramapo Ridge. Wolf said he would check with the Planning Board.

#### State v. Jay Patel Update

Wolf said we need to go through the file for the litigation. Wolf asked if we can proceed now with the civil proceedings but was told the case was dismissed. Members deferred discussion until the end of the meeting.

#### Campgaw Road Issue

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

### **SITE PLAN REVIEWS**

341 Landcorp – P/F Major Subdivision, 800 Wyckoff Avenue, Blocks 177 & 178, Multiple Lots, Docket #578

The Environmental Commission reviewed revised plans for the above referenced subject docket, which is a major subdivision application that was heard on December 12, 2016 by the Planning Board. A continuation of the application was scheduled for the Planning Board's agenda on Monday, January 23, 2017. At the December 12 meeting, the Board had concerns regarding tree removal on the west side of the property, landscaping and buffering.

*Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:*

Please submit the landscaping plan, calculation of tree removal requirement and rationale for impervious coverage exception.

**SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

The following Soil Movement Permit Application was reviewed:

Zocoli Associates c/o Charlie Dandeneau, 18 Fairmount Avenue, Block 173, Lot 120.03, Docket #1276-08(S4)

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application for the construction of a single-family home on a vacant lot. The Tree Preservation Application indicates four trees will be removed with one replacement.

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

**TENANT APPLICATIONS**

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Sapphire Divine Indian Dining, 164 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lot 9, TA17-0002  
*Indian restaurant/takeout food*

Rugged Outfitters, 1 Lethbridge Plaza #31, Block 63, Lot 6, TA17-0003  
*Online supplier of workwear and scrubs*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of a letter from Schwanewede/Hals Engineering regarding a 30-day Expedited TWA Sewer Extension Permit for Anthony Fasciano, Monroe Drive, Block 149, Lot 20
- The Shade Tree Newsletter, Volume 90, Issues 1 & 2
- Invitation to the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally
- Email from the Hackensack Riverkeeper regarding USEPA Superfund Decision
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

**NEW BUSINESS**

New Jersey Shade Tree Federation 2017 Dues

Wolf made a motion to pay dues/workshop fees in the amount of \$95 for 2017. Phiefer seconded. All members were in favor.

Stag Hill Soil Testing Initiative

LaGreca is writing a proposal to Ramapo College and would like to list the Mahwah Environmental Commission as a partner. The proposal includes soil testing of various dump sites on Stag Hill. All members were in support of being associated with the initiative. We requested a report at the end of the initiative.

State v. Jay Patel Update - Continued

Members went through the file on the case. Wolf said it is our understanding that because the criminal proceedings have been dismissed, we now have jurisdiction to pursue a hearing to determine any penalties for the violations. We need to see the court records to determine our role. Wolf will follow up with the township's attorneys to discuss our next steps.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms  
Secretary