

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Jonathan Marcus, Vice Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Jonathan Marcus  
Carol Phiefer  
Richard Reilly  
Richard Seibert  
Richard Wolf (arrived 7:58 p.m.)

Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Absent: Linda Meisel  
Daniel Weixeldorfer

The minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2016 were approved as submitted following a motion by Mr. Seibert; seconded by Mrs. Phiefer. All were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Cooperative Project with Ramapo College Sustainability Class

The Commission is conducting a cooperative project with students regarding the Commission's proposed bike path initiative. Mr. Wolf and Mrs. Phiefer attended Karin LaGreca's Sustainability Class last week to present the concept to her students. Mrs. Phiefer said the class seemed very interested and had great ideas for the initiative. Volunteers from one class will be researching societal, environmental and community impacts; the other class will focus on materials. Mr. Marcus said he would like to get some publicity on this, and will have reporters from the Suburban and Daily Voice contact Mr. Wolf and Karin LaGreca.

Tree Cutting at Avenue A, Second and Third Streets

At its last meeting, the Environmental Commission received a letter from concerned neighbors of Avenue A, Second and Third Streets regarding the extensive cutting of trees on empty lots at Avenue A and Second Street during the holiday season. The Township Property Maintenance Inspector was sent to the location to look at the tree removal on the site. Based on his inspection, he found a total of 21 trees were removed without the proper approvals or permits. The property owner will receive a summons for the violations. Mr. Wolf said we want to see a remediation plan before the property owner does anything else. He made a motion to send a response to the residents of Avenue A, Second and Third Streets; all members were in favor. Mrs. Storms will prepare a letter for Mr. Wolf's signature (*attached*). 

Sustainable Jersey Update

Mr. Wolf asked everyone to visit the Sustainable Jersey website before our next meeting to come up with a plan to work toward achieving Silver certification in the upcoming year.

Land Conservancy of New Jersey Letter

We received a letter from the Land Conservancy of New Jersey offering to provide their services to help us prepare Sustainable Jersey grant applications. Mr. Wolf will reach out to the group for more information.

2016 NJDEP Tree Recovery Campaign

We received a letter regarding the 2016 DEP Tree Recovery Campaign to receive up to 2,000 free tree seedlings for the community. Applications must be submitted by February 12, 2016. Mr. Wolf said he will start working on the application and thinking about a plan in order to make this initiative a success.

**SITE PLAN REVIEWS**

*None received*

**SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

The following soil movement permit applications were reviewed:

RJA Design & Renovations, 90 Walnut Street, Block 160, Lot 22, E-BD-216-2881

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application submitted by RJA Design & Renovations for the construction of a new single-family home. There are currently five trees on the property, none of which will be removed.

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

**TENANT APPLICATIONS**

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Inner Thoughts, 102 Miller Road, Block 72, Lot 17

TA16-0002

*Life Coach/Life Consultant; retail – oils, tarot cards, etc.*

Ultra Tidy Maintenance, Inc., 200 Route 17 South, Suite 4, Block 132, Lot 11

TA16-0003

*Building Cleaning*

Suburban Caps, Inc., 40 Franklin Turnpike, Block 68, Lot 5, TA16-0004

*Sale & Installation of Automotive Accessories*

Mr. Wolf asked Mrs. Storms to find out if there have there been any other applications for this site in the last year. She will request the information and update the members.

JL Management & Realty, LLC, 200 Route 17 South, Suite 118, Block 132, Lot 11, TA16-0005

*Property Management*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Flyer for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally on Friday, March 18, 2016.
- Hackensack Tidelines, Winter 2015, Volume XVIII, Issue 4
- Invoice for the Environmental Commission's 2016 New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Membership.
- Copy of a letter to Mr. Robert Felton of 8 Airmont Avenue regarding an area of concern for one 1,000-gallon #2 heating oil underground storage tank system.
- Copy of an email from the Mayor's Office regarding the submission deadline for the upcoming Spring Newsletter. Mr. Wolf will prepare something regarding the 2016 NJDEP Tree Recovery Campaign.
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Hoverboard Safety

Mr. Seibert said he heard something recently about the dangers associated with hoverboards due to their batteries catching on fire. He asked if this is something for which we might want to have an ordinance in place.

#### Meeting Update

Mr. Reilly said he was recently appointed to two groups within homeowner's association and as such his ability to attend future meetings may be limited from time to time. He said he will try to minimize any potential scheduling conflicts.

#### 125 Deerhaven Update

Mr. Wolf wanted to know if we received anything from the homeowner's attorney regarding the property. Mrs. Storms will ask if the Planning Office has received anything to date. If we have not yet received anything, Mr. Wolf will check with the attorney again.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Marcus; seconded by Mr. Reilly. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms  
Secretary