

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:38 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
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Kathleen Fitzgerald, AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador WMA 3

Absent: Richard Reilly

The minutes of the meeting held on February 8, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. Richard Wolf abstained. All other members were in favor.

Kathleen Fitzgerald from AmeriCorps introduced herself to our group and offered her services as a free resource. She said she likes to do litter cleanups. LaGreca said a cleanup at Lake Henry would be great and she will keep in touch with her.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Recovery Campaign 2017

The applications for 2017 are now available. Last year we received 1,000 trees to give away and it was a huge success. We are requesting 2,000 trees this year. It is on the Council's Agenda for February 23, 2017. Members discussed hosting the giveaway on Earth Day, April 22, 2017 at 10 a.m. Devaney asked if we have any space on Township property to plant any of the saplings. Wolf said he will check with DPW.

State v. Jay Patel Litigation Update

The Environmental Commission feels this case needs a proper resolution. Due to its high profile, it will have an impact how the community views Mahwah's tree ordinance and its enforcement. Pursuant to a letter received on Feb 10, 2017 from Township Attorney Brian Chewcaskie, Esq., a municipal hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. Wolf said he believes there were 53 trees taken down without approval, with a fine of \$1,000 per tree. If the violations are upheld, we want to ensure the penalties follow the ordinance requirements and, if possible, that a remediation plan is created. The current condition creates additional water runoff and soil erosion that should be addressed by a remediation plan. Chewcaskie asked that the Environmental Commission

coordinate its involvement with Tom Mulvey from the Planning Office, who will be testifying on the town's behalf. Devaney said he would like to meet with Mulvey so he can learn more about the history of the case and better understand the process.

Municipal Tree Ordinance Changes

Mike Kelly is pulling up the draft of our changes to the tree ordinance. He will revisit our recommended changes and put them in a format to submit to the Ordinance Committee. Storms distributed a draft of our changes. Wolf will follow up with Mike Kelly.

Robotics Team Clean Water Initiative

Wolf spoke to the Mayor regarding the local First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Team Clean Water initiative. The team would like to identify the potential impact that chemical runoff (i.e. nitrogen) has on local wildlife and natural resources, and 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. It is on the Council's agenda for February 23, 2017.

Rain Garden Update

The Town Council passed a resolution allowing the Environmental Commission to apply for a Sustainable Jersey grant in the amount of \$20,000 (we increased our original proposal request from \$10,000) to install a Rain/Butterfly Garden at Winter's Pond.

Municipal Tree Study

The Town Council also passed a resolution to authorize the Environmental Commission to apply for a Sustainable Jersey grant of \$10,000 to hire the Land Conservancy of NJ to prepare a tree study of select locations in Mahwah. The tree study will serve as a basis to update town records of municipal tree and develop a maintenance plan to ensure safety from obstructions, storm damage or disease.

Recycling Bin Giveaway

Storms followed up with DPW regarding funding for this year's recycling bin giveaway. According to Director Glenn Dowson, we are not able to fund this through the town's Clean Communities grant. Dowson said he will check to see what the town gets from its tonnage grant this year.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Quickchek Corp, 280-290 State Highway 17 South, Block 136, Lots 5.01 & 5.02, Docket #1411-16

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Board of Adjustment Application proposing a 5,496 square-foot food store with 13 indoor seats, eight outdoor seats and a canopy to host eight multi-product dispensers and two low-flow diesel dispensers along with associated parking/circulation aisles, sidewalks, landscaping and stormwater management improvements.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

We recommend that the lighting be reviewed at the entrance and exit to prevent glare on the roadway and neighboring properties. Please have the applicant submit more detailed information on the proposed rain gardens, particularly in regard to whether the substructure complies with the standard makeup of a rain garden. Lastly, please have the applicant provide a maintenance plan to prevent the porous concrete from becoming impervious.

The Site Plan review was accepted following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. All were in favor.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

None received

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Core Development Group, 860 Wyckoff Avenue, Block 181, Lot 6, TA17-0010

Engineering design

Village Nail & Spa, 300 Ridge Road, Block 138, Lot 151.02, TA17-0011

Salon and spa

Encore Design, 31 Industrial Avenue, Block 102, Lot 32, TA17-0012

Marketing & Advertising services

Automotive PhD, LLC, 164 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lot 9, TA17-0013

Auto repair shop

Specialty Medical Billing, LLC, 1 Lethbridge Plaza, Block 63, Lot 6, TA17-0014

Medical billing

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of a Township Resolution appointing Rich Wolf to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.
- Copy of a letter from Boswell Engineering regarding Andriy Panchisak's Soil Movement Permit Application and Plot Plan Review
- Copy of a letter from Boswell Engineering regarding Valentyna Panchisak's Soil Movement Permit Application and Plot Plan Review
- Copy of a Township Resolution regarding Docket #78 for 341 Landcorp Major Subdivision and Soil Movement Permit Applications
- Copy of a DEP Permit Notification regarding Apple Ridge Mahwah, LLC & Apple Ridge USR, LLC

- Email flyer from the Hackensack Riverkeeper regarding upcoming presentation entitled “Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs to Know”
- February 2017 Issue of the Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah newsletter
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Spring Newsletter Submission

Wolf said he would prepare an article about recycling, the tree sapling giveaway, and requests for volunteers to help us with our Sustainable Jersey recertification.

Bike Walk NJ Summit Registration

Wolf is attending the Summit this coming Saturday and welcomed anyone who was interested in attending along with him. Storms will look into getting registration fees reimbursed through our Training budget.

Article – “The Phony War Against CO2”

Seibert distributed an informational article regarding carbon dioxide emissions.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:58 p.m. following a motion by Phiefer; seconded by Devaney. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary