

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016**

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: Jonathan Marcus
Carol Phiefer
Richard Reilly (arrived at 8:17 p.m.)
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Absent: Linda Meisel
Daniel Weixeldorfer

The minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2016 were approved as submitted following a motion by Mr. Seibert; seconded by Mr. Marcus. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Cutting at Avenue A, Second and Third Streets

At our last meeting, members approved sending a response to the 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. Mr. Marcus asked for an update on this issue; Mrs. Storms said a letter was mailed out to the closest residents and posted on our website along with the minutes from January 27, 2016.

2016 NJDEP Tree Recovery Campaign

Mr. Wolf prepared an application requesting up to 1,000 tree seedlings as part of DEP's 2016 Tree Recovery Campaign. The seedlings will be delivered to us on Earth Day and need to be distributed within 10 days. We are coordinating a distribution event on Saturday, April 23 at Town Hall. The members discussed their various responsibilities in preparing for the event. Mr. Marcus also suggested we ask a local Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop to help. He will reach out to coordinate.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

The following application was reviewed:

Board of Adjustment Application

Kuldip Singh, 40 Franklin Turnpike, Block 68, Lot 5, Dkt #1393-15

The Environmental Commission reviewed a revised Board of Adjustment application submitted by Kuldip Singh for the construction of a gas station and convenience store.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

At this time, there is no attached Soil Movement Permit Application or Tree Preservation Application to review. Commission members discussed their concerns for traffic flow and safety, particularly with respect to truck deliveries and exiting the property. Members also suggested the applicant consider a drip irrigation system to maintain plantings.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following soil movement permit applications were reviewed:

Dean Van Natta, 3 Jackson Lane, Block 135, Lot 51, Dkt #1398-15(S)

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application submitted by Dean Van Natta for the construction of an in-ground pool and associated improvements.

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

Kim & Sandy Beltrimini, 1 Midvale Mountain Road, Block 1, Lot 157, BOA #1171-05S

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application submitted by Kim & Sandy Beltrimini for the construction of a single-family dwelling. The related Tree Preservation Application indicates there are a total of more than 280 trees on the property. Of the existing trees, 61 will be removed and replaced with 15 trees of including Pin Oak, Red Maple, Zelkova and Dogwood.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

This Soil Movement Permit Application is not approved. Please note that under the soil movement permit "description of soil to be moved," the export figure needs correction (page 1). Volume of soil cut plus volume to be imported should equal volume of soil fill plus volume to be exported. Please have the applicant correct that figure.

The related Tree Preservation Application is not approved. If the applicant is removing 61 trees on the property, the required tree replacement should be 16 trees. Members requested to see a plan showing tree removal and possible replacements.

Members also noted their concerns regarding the steep slope of the property (6:1), the safety of the wall height behind and on the side of the house and along the pool, and the location of the septic tanks. These are the same concerns we had in 2011. Please have the site engineer review placement related to walls and steep slope.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

Insera Supermarkets, 330 Franklin Turnpike, Block 102, Lot 26, TA16-0006
Storage of 5 to 10 automobiles

Comments to Construction Office:

Members noted their comments regarding proper ventilation, no servicing on site, and compliance with regulations preventing/cleaning leaks inside.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of an application to DEP for a sewer extension TWA permit for New Concepts Living, Inc., 16 Mountain Avenue, Block 47, Lot 18.
- Letter regarding a DEP Treatment Works Notification related to the sewer system on Wyckoff Avenue in Mahwah.
- New Jersey Effluents, a publication of the New Jersey Water Environment Association, Vol. 48, No. 4
- Copy of letter regarding a hazardous chemical identification and inventory documentation for a Verizon Wireless facility at 82B McKee Drive, pursuant to the Federal Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act.
- Copy of a letter regarding the transfer of property from Leneta Realty Company, L.P. to Schaeffer Properties, LLC, 15 Whitney Road, regarding the remediation of the site.
- Resolution from Town Council authorizing the Commission to submit an application for the 2016 NJDEP Tree Recovery Campaign.
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices.

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Tree Inventory

At our last meeting, 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 reached out to the organization for more details and was told we missed the deadline to apply. The Land Conservancy recommended a few other organizations that we could work with on such an initiative; however it would be more localized information and Mahwah would need to do the legwork. Members discussed the feasibility and value of undertaking such an initiative.

Newspaper Article – “State fighting rise in tainted water”

Mr. Seibert distributed a recent article in The Record regarding potential drinking water contamination from PFOA, a man-made chemical. He suggested we inquire if we test for this in our water report and how we compare to surrounding towns. Mr. Wolf will look into this issue.

Newspaper Article – “*Spicy food may help you live longer*”

Mr. Seibert distributed an informational article regarding a study that suggests that spicy food may be good for you.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Marcus; seconded by Mr. Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary