

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:43 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Karin LaGreca
Carol Phiefer
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf
Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Michael Devaney
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by LaGreca. All other members were in favor.

Wolf welcomed the members of the public in attendance. Ralph Vollweiler, 4003 Mark Twain Way, introduced himself and expressed an interest in volunteering on the Commission. Tom McKeon, 70 Malcolm Road, also introduced himself and expressed an interest in serving on the Commission.

Ramapo College Student Research

LaGreca introduced Emily Del Otero and Vladislav Veehoff, two Ramapo College students interested in studying the history of the wetlands in our town. The students presented their preliminary research on wetlands and micro-remediation.

OLD BUSINESS

Artificial Floating Island – Saturday, June 16

McKeon gave an update on the local Boy Scout troop's donation of an artificial floating island at Winter's Pond. The installation of the island is scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2018.

Tree Giveaway – Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Environmental Commission requested 1,500 trees this year. The application is due February 26, 2018. The giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

2018 Water Quality Summit – Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

Wolf said the Mayor's Water Quality Forum is scheduled for Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m. Members discussed proposed changes to our municipal water ordinance.

Site Plan Update: Sean Royle, 16 Skytop Drive, Block 154, Lot 17, Docket #1413-16

Storms followed up with the Board of Adjustment regarding the status of this application, which the Commission reviewed in September. The Board of Adjustment postponed its review of this application to March 21, 2018.

Application Update: 43 Peterson Place & 47 Peterson Place, Dockets #417-51 & 417-53

At its last meeting, the Environmental Commission reviewed Soil Movement Permit Applications for the construction of new single-family dwellings on the two noted properties. Ariemma said she received numerous complaints from a neighbor regarding excessive tree removals on the site and neighboring properties, as well as issues with soil movement on the roadway. Wolf asked Mike Kelly for an update on the tree removals on the property. Kelly's office conducted a site visit and confirmed that all work done thus far on the properties was approved.

Orange & Rockland Vegetation Management Plan

Ariemma contacted a representative from Rockland Electric regarding the company's plans to cut down trees around town. The representative said he would be happy to meet with the Commission to discuss the company's vegetation management plan. Ariemma said she will take the lead on coordinating a meeting with representatives from Orange & Rockland, DPW and members. Our goal is to get a better understanding of tree removals, as well as reduce the amount of trees being cut down and maintain our tree canopy in town.

Constituent Emails

Ariemma said she recently received emails regarding a Sussex County logging proposal and the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project in Northern New Jersey.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Rochris Real Estate Corp., 12 & 14 Mountainside Avenue, Block 130, Lots 6 & 7, Docket #591

The Environmental Commission received a Planning Board Application Review Report for a preliminary and final site plan on the two noted properties.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

The Soil Movement Application review was accepted with the following comments:

1. There is no attached Tree Preservation Application, however there appears to be significant tree removals noted on the site plan. Please have the applicant submit a Tree Preservation Application identifying trees to be removed.
2. Please also verify that the planned use of the property does not exceed the maximum permitted lot coverage.

The Soil Movement Application review was accepted subject to the above notes, 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:

Peshawai Grill – Frontier Indian Cuisine, 164 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lot 9, TA18-0008

Restaurant

Freedom Bank, 380 Route 17 South, Block 137, Lot 4, TA18-0007

Banking

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email invitation from Food & Water Watch NJ to co-sponsor a clean energy event
- Email from the Hackensack Riverkeeper
- Copy of a letter from NJDEP regarding a Treatment Works Approval issued for 70 Peterson Place
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Campgaw Road

Phiefer noted a property on Campgaw Road on which residents have placed large boulders along the front of the property. She said she will take photos and send to Mike Kelly's office for guidance as to whether the placement of the boulders is permitted.

Plastic Recycling

Members discussed the amount of plastic being found in our oceans.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary