

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Michael Devaney (arrived at 7:46 p.m.)
Carol Phiefer
Richard Reilly
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison
Anthony Lamanna, Oweno Road resident

Absent: Karin LaGreca

The minutes of the meeting held on February 22, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Reilly. All other members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Municipal Tree Ordinance Changes

Wolf spoke to Mike Kelly about reviewing the draft of our changes to the tree ordinance. Kelly said he will go through our recommended changes and put them in a format to submit to the Ordinance Committee. Wolf will follow up with Mike Kelly.

State v. Jay Patel Litigation Update

Pursuant to a letter received on Feb 10, 2017 from Township Attorney Brian Chewcaskie, Esq., a municipal court hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. 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. Devaney is going to meet with Tom Mulvey so he can learn more about the history of the case and better understand the process.

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. Wolf gave an update on the status of the rain garden and the funding we have received so far.

Robotics Team Clean Water Initiative

At its February 23, 2017 meeting, the Town Council passed a resolution allowing the Environmental Commission to apply for a \$2,000 grant to allow the Robotics Team to create a filter and measuring devices to be placed in local streams and rivers to gather information regarding the potential impact that chemical runoff (i.e. nitrogen) has on local wildlife and natural resources. Wolf said he would also like to pursue a \$1,500 open space grant from ANJEC to support for the robotics league.

Bike Walk NJ Summit

LaGreca and Wolf both attended the recent Summit. He discussed our feasibility study concept with representatives there and said our ideas were well-received. He said there are a lot of grant opportunities out there to support such an initiative when we are ready with a more comprehensive plan.

Tree Recovery Campaign 2017

We submitted an application for 2,000 trees this year. DPW will pick up the trees on April 21, 2017. Our giveaway event will be held on Earth Day, April 22, 2017, at 10 a.m.

Public Park Resident Concern

Resident Anthony Lamanna and his wife have been residents of Mahwah for over 20 years. He said there has been a large increase in the amount of people from out of town using our parks, loitering and littering everywhere. He asked if something can be done to discourage this problem. Donigian said that because we receive Open Space grants for our parks, they must be open to the public. Members discussed possible solutions to the issue, including better signage and stricter enforcement. Wolf said he will look into it further and see what other towns have done to combat similar issues. Members suggested they also attend the Town Council meeting tomorrow to discuss their concerns.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

WJA Associates, LLC, 185 Route 17 & North Side of Avenue A, Block 53, Lots 18, 19, 20 & 21

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Board of Adjustment Application to add a proposed elevator to the commercial building and subdivide Lot 18 to provide for additional parking, which requires a use variance.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

The Commission recommends the applicant make an effort to preserve the two large trees on the property, as well as implement screening for the neighboring residents.

The Site Plan review was accepted with the above comments following a motion made by Donigian; seconded by Wolf. All were in favor.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following Soil Movement Permit Application was reviewed:

Peterson Place, LLC, 70 Peterson Place, Block 139, Lot 50, Docket #417(S)

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application to subdivide the existing lot into five new single-family dwellings. The Tree Preservation Application indicates the removal of 94 trees with 24 replacements.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

The Commission recommends a new wetlands delineation study be performed, as we believe wetlands may exist on the property. Please note that under the soil movement permit application "Description of Soil to be Moved," the figures need correction (page 1). Testing is also required for the imported soil. Lastly, please confirm that Site Plan approval is still valid as some of the members were concerned about notifications to residents.

The applications were accepted following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Phiefer. All were in favor.

James Reavey, 60 Walnut Street, Block 167, Lot 3, E-BD-216-304-629

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application for the installation of an in-ground pool and patio. The Tree Preservation Application indicates the removal of eight trees with zero proposed replacements.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please note that two trees are required to be replaced with the removal of eight trees. The replacement trees must be on the approved list of native and deciduous hardwoods.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Ryan Kyung, 46 Franklin Turnpike, Block 68, Lot 10, TA17-0015

Change of ownership for dry cleaning business (formerly Betty Brite Cleaners)

Comments:

The Commission recommends the applicant provide certification that they contract with an approved service to remove the cleaning chemical waste.

Starbucks Coffee Co., 380 State Highway 17 South, Block 137, Lot 4, TA17-0016

Retail sales and services (coffee and related items)

Gus Daghash, 380 State Highway 17 South, Block 137, Lot 4, TA17-0017

Wireless communication products and services

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of a Township Resolution authorizing the submission of a Sustainable Jersey Grant Application
- Copy of a Township Resolution authorizing the submission of a second Sustainable Jersey Grant Application
- 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 letter from Lehman & Getz Engineering regarding TWJ Mahwah Real Estate LLC property 64 Ramapo Valley Road
- Copy of a letter from Applied Earth Solutions regarding Classification Exception Area/Well Restriction Area Fact Sheet Form for Mahwah U-Save Service Station
- Copy of a revised Resolution of the Township of Mahwah Planning Board regarding Docket #578 – 341 Landcorp
- Invitation to the Bergen County Environmental Conference on March 21, 2017
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Article – “Resident property tax”

Seibert distributed an informational article regarding residential property taxes.

Planning Board Liaison

Wolf introduced Donigian as our new liaison to the Planning Board. Donigian thanked all the members and said it is a pleasure to serve on the Commission.

Apple Ridge Resident Concern

Wolf said a resident near Apple Ridge told him she is concerned there has been an increase in wildlife being killed on the road due to the displacement of the animals during construction. Wolf will recommend she bring her concerns to the Planning Board.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. following a motion by Phiefer; seconded by Donigian. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary