

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015**

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 Richard Wolf, Chairman. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Jonathan Marcus
Carol Phiefer
Richard Reilly
Richard Wolf
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Karin LaGreca, Sustainable Jersey Consultant
Peggy Bost, Resident
Ann Powley, Resident

Absent: Linda Meisel
Richard Seibert
Daniel Weixeldorfer

There was no quorum present to approve the minutes of February 11, 2015 and February 25, 2015. Minutes will be presented again at the March 25, 2015 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Green/Health Fair

May 16, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mahwah Senior Activity Center

Mrs. Phiefer and Brian Phiefer of Sustainable Mahwah visited the Department of Public Works to take pictures of our recycling display, which shows various items that can and cannot be recycled. We will display it at the Green Fair.

Mr. Marcus asked if the fair had an official name yet. Mrs. LaGreca said while it has not been finalized, the name of the event would likely be something like *Mayor's Wellness Day – Learning How to Live Sustainably and Go Green*.

Mrs. LaGreca is securing volunteers and vendors for the event. She said the Joyce Kilmer Girl Scout troop will make and distribute compostable planters, as well as help with a children's activity table. Secours Farms will donate flowers and herbs for various demonstrations. Maryann's Market will give healthy cooking demonstrations and make baked goods using produce from MEVO's farm. We will also raffle off a free rain barrel. Mrs. LaGreca said there was a beautiful milkweed display at Fairlawn's recent green fair – she will look into giving out free milkweed seeds at our fair as well.

Mr. Marcus is also looking for vendors. He asked if there are specific types of vendors we can invite to the fair, such as homeopathic vendors. Mrs. LaGreca will confirm what types of vendors are permissible to have at the fair. She said we need to make sure they do not conflict with any of the health-related vendors. Mr. Marcus will forward any information he has from potential vendors to Mrs. LaGreca for review.

Mahwah resident Mrs. Bost said the Cornell Cooperative Extension had an interesting presentation on composting and mosquito control at a Ramapo College event. Mrs. LaGreca will reach out to them to see if they have anything we can use.

Mr. Wolf went to the recent Franklin Lakes/Oakland/Wyckoff (FLOW) Green Fair. He said it was well attended and received a lot of favorable media coverage. He will pass along the information he collected to Mrs. LaGreca.

Protecting Your Trees and Shrubs From Hungry Deer

March 26, 2015 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Mahwah Senior Activity Center

Mrs. LaGreca reminded the group that we are sponsoring a presentation to show residents how to plant to minimize the impact of wildlife destruction. A representative from Borst Landscape and Design will present the seminar. Commission members will help publicize the event. Mrs. LaGreca said she will look into serving light refreshments at the event as well.

Emergency Management – Flood Control Questionnaire

Mr. Wolf informed the group that Linda Meisel has contacted the necessary department heads to review the Emergency Management - Flood Control questionnaire for her Sustainable Jersey project. She is still working on obtaining the information and will send Mr. Wolf a meeting date as soon as she has one.

Natural Resource Environmental Inventory Report

We need to prove the report is included in the township's master plan to receive 20 points toward our Sustainable Jersey certification. Mr. Marcus was unable to find the minutes or the resolution from the meetings where the report was addressed. He said he will ask Township Planner Dave Roberts if the inventory is incorporated in the Township's Master Plan. Mr. Wolf said he is almost certain the report is included in the master plan. Mrs. LaGreca said we have until June 2015 to receive credit. We can seek to amend the master plan, but that may take too much time. We may be able to do a resolution to say we are going to incorporate it into our master plan. Mrs. LaGreca will check to see if we can receive the 20 points for a resolution. Mr. Marcus will follow up after he speaks to Mr. Roberts.

Anti-Idling Initiatives

At the last meeting, Mr. Marcus said he would send the township's anti-idling ordinance to the Board of Education in an effort to address the problem of idling vehicles waiting to pick up children from schools. Mr. Marcus said he found an anti-idling ordinance specifically for trucks, but not one that deals with passenger vehicles. Mr. Wolf said one

of the first things we did for Sustainable New Jersey was have town council pass a resolution concerning this. Mr. Marcus said one concern is that if it is not a municipal ordinance, how is it enforced? Mrs. LaGreca will look over the Sustainable Jersey requirements again - she thinks we only need a resolution to receive credit. However, she said we should still seek to pass a more comprehensive anti-idling municipal ordinance that can be enforced.

Cut It and Leave It

Mrs. LaGreca said she would like to promote an educational “Cut it and Leave it” initiative touting the benefits of saving grass clippings for mulch. This awareness campaign would save residents money, is good for the environment and cuts down on pollution.

Bicycle Audit

Mrs. LaGreca would like to pursue a bike audit of the town to see if a bike trail plan will add benefit to the community. Mr. Wolf is getting more details.

Smoke-Free Parks

We know we have an ordinance, but Mrs. LaGreca said she is only aware of one sign at the high school and one at Continental Soldier’s Field. We would like to have more around. Mrs. LaGreca plans to resubmit the resolution.

Rain Garden Initiatives

The Township’s Beautification Committee is interested in a rain garden project. Mrs. LaGreca will present to the group in April. She also said there is a Rain Garden Workshop on March 19 at Bergen Community College. The workshop, hosted by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, will teach participants how to install a rain garden in their own backyard.

Mrs. LaGreca said if we complete all of her recommended action items, we will have 285 points toward our Sustainable Jersey certification.

Pilgrim Pipeline Presentation

Mr. Marcus continues to meet with local groups to gain support in opposing the proposed Pilgrim pipeline. He has asked the commission to consider sending a letter to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requesting to be included in the review process. He introduced Mahwah residents Peggy Bost and Ann Powley, whose group has created a form letter for all interested parties to use, to give an update on the status of their grassroots efforts to oppose the pipeline.

Mrs. Powley thanked the commission for the letter we sent to town council asking them to oppose the pipeline. It was very helpful to the community. Mahwah was the eighth town in the region, and the 33rd in the state, to pass resolutions opposing the pipeline.

Mrs. Powley and Mrs. Bost are now trying to build a stronger support base so all citizens are aware of what is going on with the pipeline. They have met with representatives from

Senator Booker's office. Since the pipeline will pass very close to schools, they are also going to the Board of Education to ask for their involvement, as well as reaching out to State Senate and Assembly Offices. Mrs. Powley and Mrs. Bost also plan to attend the next town council meeting to bring them up to speed on the issue.

Mrs. Powley said she is also trying to establish a contact at the Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Marcus suggested she reach out to Congressman Garrett's office to request their assistance.

Mrs. Powley said her group feels a letter from the commission or town council letting the EPA and DEP know we want to be involved in the hearing and permitting process would be beneficial. We want DEP to know this is an issue of big concern to our community and our region; that citizens are concerned about the potentially devastating impact of the pipeline on our natural resources. Mrs. Powley will send us a draft letter for review. Upon review of the language, Mr. Wolf will ask township officials who the letter should come from.

Mr. Reilly said the Pilgrim Pipeline is bringing two issues to head – is it better to have pipelines or trains coming through your community? Mrs. Bost said there is ultimately no perfect way to transport oil. But leaks with a pipeline are much more damaging than train derailments, which is why we are so concerned about the pipeline going through our regional water supply. Mr. Marcus agreed that a pipeline spill is much more difficult to detect. Mrs. Bost said they will never stop using trains, so even if they build a lot of pipelines, its always more efficient and flexible to use trains.

Mrs. Bost said we really need to educate people as to how the proposed pipeline is going to affect residents. They have created a regional group called the Northern Regional Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline (CAPP), which encompasses all the municipalities on the pipeline route from Mahwah to Kinnelon. The group is now planning a meeting in an effort to develop task groups and create a more specialized knowledge base consisting of people that have worked on environmental causes in the past. Mrs. Powley said residents are responding positively to their efforts. They want to engage more people so we are prepared when Pilgrim's permitting process begins. The group's first meeting is slated for Monday, March 30 at the Oakland Public Library.

Mr. Wolf thanked Mrs. Bost and Mrs. Powley for all the time and effort they have put into this effort.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Apple Ridge Association, Litchult Lane, Block 126, Lot 114, E-BD-216-2780

The Environmental Commission reviewed the Soil Movement Permit Application submitted by Apple Ridge Association for the removal and replacement of retaining walls located on Litchult Lane.

Approved unanimously following a motion by Mr. Marcus and seconded by Mr. Reilly.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

None received

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Resolution of the Township of Mahwah Planning Board, dated March 9, 2015, conditionally approving a Preliminary Major Subdivision Application/Soil Movement Permit Application for Anthony Fasciano, Monroe Drive, Block 149, Lot 20 (Docket #544 PM SD).
- Response from Guy Fava regarding his Soil Movement Permit Application for 317 Stag Hill Road (Docket #1375-14-S).
- New Jersey DEP Community Right to Know Surveys for 2014 from Verizon Wireless, CB Richard Ellis and Pilot Travel Centers, LLC.
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. DeWan was not able to come to tonight's meeting but will be at the March 25 meeting. The group would like to recognize her years of service to the Environmental Commission. Mr. Wolf said he will request a Mayoral Proclamation and invite the Mayor to present it to Mrs. DeWan at the next meeting.

Mrs. Storms said the Environmental Commission received a call from the leader of a local Cub Scout troop that is interested in participating in an Earth Day cleanup in Mahwah. Mrs. Storms will forward the contact to Mrs. LaGreca, who said she has worked with this troop in the past.

Mrs. LaGreca reminded everyone to come to the deer presentation on March 26 and invite as many people as we know.

Mr. Reilly inquired about the group's ID cards, which Mrs. DeWan had requested from the Police Department before she retired. Mrs. Storms will check on the status.

Mr. Marcus wanted the group to know that the 1 Farmstead Road Application (Docket #461A), which we rejected and referred to the historic commission at a recent meeting, was heard at the planning board's last meeting. When the property was subdivided in 2004, the developer agreed to ensure the historic Winter's House on the property was always preserved as an accessory structure. The current owner contends the property is no longer marketable and the house has suffered disrepair. They would like to knock down the house and build a foundation wall commemorating the site. Members of the public came out in force to ask many tough questions about the proposal. The application was carried to the Planning Board's second meeting in April.

Mr. Reilly is putting together a list of the commission's actions for his Sustainable New Jersey project. Mrs. Storms said she can create a spreadsheet of everything we have done thus far in 2015. The spreadsheet will include the names of each plan and any actions, findings, facts or recommendations made by the Commission. She will distribute the spreadsheet to the group as it is updated.

Mr. Wolf encouraged everyone to keep working on his or her respective projects for Sustainable New Jersey.

Mr. Marcus informed the group that Mr. Weixeldorfer has been unable to attend recent meetings due to several health issues. He remains out of commission for the time being. Mr. Marcus will reach out to Mr. Weixeldorfer to see how he is doing.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. following a motion by Rich Wolf; seconded by Jonathan Marcus. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary