

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

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:41 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Michael Devaney
Karin LaGreca (arrived 7:48 p.m.)
Carol Phiefer
Richard Reilly
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison (arrived 7:56 p.m.)
Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Mahwah High School Students
Jane Kellner
Julia Colucci
Riya Moorthy
Jasmine Singh

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

OLD BUSINESS

Bergen County Environmental Conference

Wolf, Devaney and LaGreca attended the Bergen County Environmental Conference on March 21. The county has received more open space funding this year, so members discussed the possibility of purchasing any property in town we would like to see preserved. The county is also in the process of putting together a countywide master plan, which ties into our bike/walk path initiative.

Municipal Tree Ordinance Changes

Wolf said there is no update on this since our last meeting.

State v. Jay Patel Litigation Update

Wolf said that as of tonight, the municipal court hearing is still scheduled for Thursday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. He said members are welcome to attend if they are interested. Devaney and Wolf plan to attend.

Rain Garden Update

LaGreca said we should hear shortly on the status of our Sustainable Jersey grant requests.

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.

Recycling Bin Giveaway

Wolf said according to DPW Director Glenn Dowson, we have received enough funding from the town's Tonnage Grant to order more recycling bins for a giveaway. The funding will not be available until around June or July.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following Soil Movement Permit Application was reviewed:

Christopher Howard, 7 Farmstead Road, Block 23, Lot 55.02, E-BD-216-304-630

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for an addition and pool on the property.

The application was accepted following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Reilly. All were in favor.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Firehouse Subs, 380 State Highway 17 South, Block 137, Lot 4, TA17-0019

Retail delicatessen and submarine sandwich restaurant

NJ Mobile Health Care, LLC, 370 Franklin Turnpike, Block 102, Lot 30, TA17-0018

Transportation/ambulance

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email letter from Tony Lamanna, who attended our last meeting and the Town Council Meeting on March 9 to discuss his concerns with regard to the deterioration of our parks from out-of-town residents
 - Wolf said this issue also came up at the Bergen County Environmental Conference. He said Mahwah can draft an ordinance that says groups of 10 or more require a permit. Ariemma said she will discuss it at the next Town Council meeting.

- Letter from MAP Engineering regarding an application for a flood hazard area verification for Stag Hill Road, Block 130, Lot 1
- Copy of a Highlands Applicability Determination Notice regarding a Highlands Exemption Application regarding property at Lot 17, Block 154, Skytop Road
- Invitation for the 2017 FLOW Green Film Festival
- Invitation for a fundraiser for the Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline on March 30
 - Members discussed the idea of hosting a Water Quality Forum in the future. Ariemma said she will bring it up at the next Town Council Meeting and contact representatives from Ridgewood, where they recently hosted one.
- Email from CDP Cities regarding upcoming deadlines, workshops and webinars
- Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah Newsletter, March 2017, Volume 5, Issue 3
- Hackensack Tidelines Spring 2017 Newsletter, Volume XX, Issue 1
- The Shade Tree Bi-Monthly Bulletin, Volume 90, March/April 2017, Issues 3 & 4
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Apple Ridge Update

Reilly said nearly all of the trees have been cut down on the property.

Tree Fall Accident

One of the Mahwah High Schools students said there was an accident today on Route 202 in which a tree fell on a car and the driver is in critical but stable condition. Wolf said the obligation falls with the county because it occurred on a county road. Members discussed the benefits of having a Shade Tree Commission in such a situation.

Stag Hill Soil Testing MEVO Initiative

LaGreca said she received a \$1,500 grant for students to continue the research MEVO has been doing on Stag Hill. The project includes soil testing of various dump sites. As a project partner, we will receive a report at the end of the initiative.

MEVO Fundraiser

LaGreca said MEVO is hosting a fundraiser at Whole Foods on March 29 and encouraged members to spread the word.

Laptop Connection

Devaney asked if there is any way we can connect to the conference room television/monitor during our meetings. Storms will check on the status.

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

At its last meeting, the Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application to subdivide the existing lot into five new single-family dwellings. It was not clear whether the site plan approval was still valid, and some of the members were concerned about notifications to nearby residents. Donigian said the Planning Board reviewed the plan at its last meeting and our concerns were addressed with the applicant.

Wolf asked the students if they had any final questions. They asked if there is anything they can do to encourage the creation of a Shade Tree Commission in our town. Donigian suggested they try to attend an upcoming Ramsey Shade Tree Commission meeting to learn more about it.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by LaGreca. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary