

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Jonathan Marcus
Carol Phiefer
Richard Reilly
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Mayor William C. Laforet
Marina Villeneuve, The Record
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Absent: Linda Meisel
Daniel Weixeldorfer

The minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2016 were approved as submitted following a motion by Mr. Marcus; seconded by Mr. Seibert. Mr. Reilly abstained because he was not in attendance. All other members were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Teterboro Airport FAA Flight Pattern Change

Mr. Marcus raised an issue concerning the FAA's decision to change the Teterboro flight pattern and have planes descending to 2,000 feet directly above the Sheraton Crossroads in Mahwah as they begin final approach procedures. A recent article in the Record noted the FAA is planning to begin testing a new flight path to Teterboro Airport that will divert aircraft that usually fly over Hackensack to a route a few miles west. Changing the flight pattern will alleviate noise currently affecting Hackensack, but will now shift the noise over Mahwah. Mr. Marcus said the FAA made this decision without any public notice, public hearings and an overall lack of transparency. He distributed some research on decibel levels and noise issues raised at other communities across the country.

Mayor Laforet said he received a letter dated March 16 notifying the town of the new flight path testing, which is scheduled to begin on April 4. He said he asked Town Council to approve a resolution to express the sentiments of our community regarding this quality of life issue, but the council said they needed more information before proceeding. He said he emailed the FAA noting our concerns and reached out to local mayors in other affected towns. He is in contact with Renee Span of the Port Authority of NY & NJ (PANYNJ), and is planning to attend a meeting at Teterboro Airport on

March 30 with representatives from the PANYNJ, the FAA and the Teterboro Air Noise Abatement Committee.

Mr. Marcus suggested the Environmental Commission issue a letter – which he drafted – to the FAA, alerting them to our concerns about the impact of increased noise pollution on our residents and urging them to postpone their test. We are requesting access to the data and rationale used to select the proposed test path. We are also requesting more transparency to the process before making any final decisions. Mayor Laforet said the letter will be greatly appreciated; this is about a quality of life issue in Mahwah and we just want to have a seat at the table. On a final note, the Mayor applauded the Environmental Commission for its efforts across town.

Mr. Wolf said he supports sending the letter. He said that without seeing the results of the test, it is not clear how this flight pattern change will affect Mahwah. He is also concerned about the length of the test and suggested we ask for clarification on the process after the test is concluded. We want to make sure all parties can view the test results and comment as part of the final decision process.

The letter was approved following a motion by Mr. Reilly; seconded by Mrs. Phiefer. All were in favor. Mrs. Storms will finalize and distribute the letter.

Bike Path Presentation

Mr. Wolf said students from Ramapo will be presenting their ideas regarding the proposed bike path during our April 13 meeting. Mrs. Storms will request the downstairs conference room as a backup if we have a lot of people in attendance.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following soil movement permit applications were reviewed:

Jacek Suchocki, 6 Pendleton Road, Block 158, Lot 6, E-BD-216-2890

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application submitted by Jacek Suchocki for the addition of a new garage, porch, deck and driveway extension.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please have the applicant confirm what they are doing with the soil. Please also confirm there is no tree removal.

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

Steven Balcof & Samantha Palmer, 16 Peterson Place, Block 139, Lot 20, E-BD-216-2891

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application submitted by Steven Balcof & Samantha Palmer for the construction of a single-family dwelling.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

This Soil Movement Permit Application is not yet approved. While the application is correct as presented, the site plan indicates there are trees being removed on the site. Please have the applicant submit both applications for approval.

The application was rejected following a motion made by Mr. Wolf; seconded by Mr. Marcus. All were in favor.

Mahwah NL Cedars Developers, LLC, George Altirs, 15 Arbor Lane, Block 126, Lot 129.03, E-BD-216-2892

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application submitted by Mahwah NL Cedars Developers, LLC for the construction of single-family home on a vacant lot. The Tree Preservation Application indicates 8 trees will be removed and replaced with 4 trees (Zelkova, Pin Oak, October Glory Maple and Hedge Maple).

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

This Soil Movement Permit Application is approved, but please have the applicant confirm that the soil being moved on the site is coming from other sites on the same property and not from an outside source. Please also note that Hedge Maple is not on the approved list of deciduous replacement trees and will not count toward the replacement requirement. Lastly, the tree removal must be in compliance with the original plan previously approved by the Commission.

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

Mahwah NL Cedars Developers, LLC, George Altirs, 12 Arbor Lane, Block 126, Lot 129.05, E-BD-216-2893

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application submitted by Mahwah NL Cedars Developers, LLC for the construction of a single-family home on a vacant lot. The Tree Preservation Application indicates 35 trees will be removed and replaced with 9 trees (October Glory Red Maple, Pin Oak, Hedge Maple and Green Zelkova).

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please note the tree removal application must be consistent with the Environmental Commission's original approval. Please also note that Hedge Maple is not on the approved list of deciduous replacement trees and will not count toward the replacement requirement.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Digital Lizard DBA Glocal Soft Digital Solutions, 200 Corporate Drive, Block 136, Lot 7, TA16-0009

Warehouse distribution

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

Gateway Gourmet Deli, 9 Franklin Turnpike, Block 69, Lot 1, TA16-0010

Deli

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

Aero Athletics Training LLC, 31 Industrial Avenue, Block 102, Lot 32, TA16-0011

Weight training school – Crossfit

The application was approved following a motion made by Mr. Marcus; seconded by Mr. Seibert. All were in favor.

European Auto Clinic, 45 Edison Road, Block 173, Lot 123, TA16-0012

Auto Repair

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

Mellone Wholesale Produce, 18 Industrial Avenue, Block 110.01, Lot 1, TA16-0013

Produce

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

Median Energy Corp, 1 Lethbridge Plaza, Suite 4, Block 63, Lot 6, TA16-0014

Energy Supplier

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

Autodata Corporation dba Motor Intelligence, 1200 Macarthur Boulevard, Block 139, Lot 2, TA16-0015

Automotive industry statistical analysis and consulting

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

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- New Jersey Shade Tree Federation 2016 Membership Cards – Mrs. Storms distributed.
- Email regarding MEVO Volunteer and Summer Internship Opportunities. Mrs. Storms will forward the information to the members.
- Email from Administration regarding switching from fossil fuels to renewables.
- Email from the Bergen County Utilities Authority regarding Hazardous Waste Collection dates for 2016. Mrs. Storms will forward the information to the members.
- Email from the Joyce Kilmer Society regarding the first Plant-A-Tree event with MEVO.
- Copy of a letter Boswell McClave regarding public notification of an application for a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit from Blueberry Court to Chapel Road.
- Copy of a Notice of Public Hearing to the Planning Board regarding Mahwah NL Cedars Developers, LLC plot plan review, soil movement and related approvals for 16 Arbor Lance, Block 126, Lot 129.06.
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices.

OLD BUSINESS

2016 NJDEP Tree Recovery Campaign

Members discussed their various responsibilities in preparing for the tree distribution event on Saturday, April 23 at Town Hall. Mr. Wolf spoke to DEP and was told that instructions will be attached to each seedling. Mr. Marcus said the Girl Scouts are interested in helping at the event and distributing a handout about the benefits of planting trees. Members also discussed various ways to promote the event to residents.

Bike Path Update, continued

Mr. Wolf said he is in communication with the chair of the Ramsey Environmental Commission regarding our bike path initiative. They are interested in updating or possibly expanding their own bike path. Mr. Wolf invited her to come to any of our upcoming meetings to discuss.

Article Regarding 1,4-dioxane

Mr. Seibert distributed a recent article regarding statewide plans to eventually develop a drinking water standard for the chemical 1,4-dioxane, since it has been found in water supplies across the state.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Reilly; seconded by Mr. Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary