

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019**

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: Richard Wolf, Chair
 Janet Ariemma
 Tom McKeon
 Frank Pallotta, Planning Board Liaison
 Carol Phiefer
 Richard Seibert

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Karin LaGreca

The minutes of the meeting held on March 13, 2019 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. McKeon abstained. All other present members were in favor.

PRESENTATION

Wolf welcomed to the meeting Aiden Dartley, President of the North Jersey Youth Audubon society. Dartley is a high school student from Ridgewood who is spearheading North Jersey Audubon, an organization committed to involving teenagers in community-based projects around the area. The NJYA would like to beautify Lake Henry by planting native plants such as milkweed, cardinal flower and coral honeysuckle on the open lot adjacent to the lake. The effort will provide biodiversity to the local ecosystem. The group would like to do this sometime in April. NJYA will maintain the landscaping moving forward to ensure it does not impede access to the well pump on the property. Wolf will forward the information to DPW to coordinate.

Seibert made a motion to approve the proposal; seconded by Ariemma. All other present members voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Repair Café Initiative

Tanja Israel gave an update regarding the Repair Café initiative she is organizing in town. She has confirmed two volunteers for sewing machine repair and appliances. She also met with representatives from Ramapo College regarding using the college as a location, and received confirmation today that her first event will take place on April 27. The library is also very interested in setting upcoming dates, which we could sponsor.

Stag Hill Tire Cleanup

Pallotta reached out to the Bergen County Utilities Authority regarding organizing a tire collection in conjunction with the county's June 8 hazardous waste collection. The county said they were not able to collect the additional tires from Stag Hill. They suggested we apply for a 2019 Recycling Enhancement Grant from the Bergen County Utilities Authority, which Pallotta submitted. We received a \$3,000 grant to coordinate a tire collection alongside the June 8 event.

Reusable Bags

Members briefly discussed researching reusable bag options to order as giveaways. Members will start looking at options. Storms will also add this topic to the agenda for our next meeting.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Realty Associates Acquisition Group, LLC, 6 Industrial Avenue, Block 110.01, Lot 9, Docket #599

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Planning Board Application Review Report for a site plan approval.

Comments to Administrative Officer

The Environmental Commission strongly recommends that the applicant consider the green infrastructure strategies recommended by the Highlands Municipal Project Review #HC-MR-19-001. We highly recommend that these strategies be examined and enacted in order to obtain the variance. Please note there are no related Soil Movement or Tree Preservation Applications. Please have the applicant submit when available.

The application review was accepted with the above noted comments following a motion made by McKeon; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Toll NJ IV, LLC, 19 Roxbury Road, Block 127.01, Lot 10, E-BD-216-3125

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a new single-family dwelling.

Apple Ridge Pumping Update

Because this application is related to Apple Ridge, Pallotta said he met with Mike Kelly and Planning/Zoning Officer Geri Entrup this Friday regarding the ongoing pumping issues at Apple Ridge. He said the basin water remains an issue. There are currently no standards for basin water. Seibert also noted concerns with stormwater retention on the overall site and water runoff on this property specifically. Seibert recommended the Commission table the application until we can obtain more information from Township Engineer Mike Kelly in the Planning/Zoning Office.

Comments to Administrative Officer

The Commission believes that, given the steep slope nature of the property, it is not good engineering practice to design runoff to neighboring properties. We recommend reducing

this runoff, and that the applicant consider green infrastructure practices such as rain gardens between properties and before the curb.

The application review was rejected subject to clarification by Township Engineer Mike Kelly following a motion made by Seibert; seconded by Ariemma. All other members were in favor.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Morali Barber House, 107-109 Miller Road, Block 72, Lot 17, TA19-0006

Hair Salon

Hairapy LLC, 15 Miller Road, Block 71, Lot 16, TA19-0007

Salon

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from Weston Solutions regarding a DEP Permit Application for the Mahwah Business Park
- Letters from ETI regarding application for Flood Hazard Area Verification for 186 Halifax Road
- Letter from the DEP regarding a Classification Exception Area for the Mobil Service Station at 193 Route 17 North.
- Email from the Joyce Kilmer Society regarding a YouTube video now available
- Email from CDP Cities regarding climate action reporting
- Email newsletters from the Hackensack Riverkeeper
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Mahwah Pool Issue

Ariemma said there are multiple grading issues at the pool. She asked if we can consider installing a rain garden on the site. Members discussed. Ariemma will research options with the pool committee.

Continental Soldiers Field

Ariemma said the Town Council is looking at replacing the artificial turf at Continental Soldiers Field. She asked if the Environmental Commission is in support of replacing the turf with a more environmentally-friendly alternative.

Senior Citizen Bulk Recycling Program

McKeon prepared a flyer he drafted for the Senior Citizen Bulk Recycling Program. Members discussed adding the date of the pick-up day to the flyer.

Website Contact Information

The township is undertaking a number of initiatives to enhance the security of our computer networks and will be removing individual email addresses from the town website. The Mayor's Office has requested that each board and commission designate two representatives to serve as contacts. Storms and McKeon will serve as the points of contact.

Constituent Call

Tom McKeon was approached by a concerned neighbor regarding reports of excessive soil movement at 28 Snow Drive. Storms will follow up with the Planning Office for more information.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:08 p.m. following a motion by Pallotta; seconded by Phiefer. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary