

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

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

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

The minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2019 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by McKeon. LaGreca abstained. All other present members were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Recycling Updates

*Senior Citizen Bulk Recycling Program – May 4, 2019*

McKeon said the planning for the Senior Citizen Bulk Recycling Program is going well. He currently has 18 senior citizens registered for the program. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 4. Scouts from Troop 258 are participating.

*Schools Recycling Program*

McKeon met with representatives from the high school and middle school to discuss recycling efforts in our schools. They were very receptive to encouraging more recycling in the school. Wolf suggested we look at what is on the Sustainable Jersey website to develop a school action plan.

Green Communities Grant – Community Forestry Management Plan

We applied for and received the \$3,000 matching Green Communities Grant to support the development of a Community Forestry Management Plan. We have a project total of \$6,000. Kris Hasbrouck has submitted a formal proposal. Wolf requested a second proposal from another company.

Repair Café Initiative

Wolf and Storms met with the Mayor to discuss the Repair Café initiative and his concerns regarding sponsoring the event. Liability insurance remains a concern. Wolf is looking into other potential locations for the initiative.

New Jersey Youth Audubon Initiative

Wolf met with the mayor regarding Aiden Dartley's proposal and said the mayor is going to find out if the area in question is considered wetlands.

Mission Statement

Mayor Roth has suggested we come up with a mission statement. Members discussed looking into the Community awareness and monitoring development around town.

Reusable Bags

Members discussed reusable bag options to order as giveaways. Wolf said we need to determine how much to spend on bags and whether or not members are in favor of having a local company sponsor the cost of the bags.

ANJEC Grant

LaGreca said she is working on a \$1,500 ANJEC conservation grant and will update us as more information is available.

Rain Garden

LaGreca said we are now moving onto phase three of the rain garden. One of the contractors is looking into steps to prevent erosion on the site. LaGreca said she recently gave a lecture at the NJ Botanical Gardens. It is slated to appear in the Record next Sunday.

Stag Hill Cleanup

LaGreca asked if we can move forward with ordering signs for the Stag Hill cleanup, but instead of ordering them all at once she would like to know if we can order them piece by piece. Storms will ask if they can issue multiple checks against the same purchase order.

Mahwah Pool Update

Ariemma said the pool has flooding issues and she would like LaGreca to take a look at the property to determine if a rain garden would alleviate some of the flooding issues.

**SITE PLAN REVIEWS**

*None received*

**SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

*None received*

**TENANT APPLICATIONS**

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

Hongbo Zhang, 9 Miller Road, Block 71, Lot 16, TA19-0008

*Bakery*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email newsletters from the Hackensack Riverkeeper and NY/NJ Trail Conference
- Email from CDP Cities regarding upcoming webinars
- Email regarding 2019 MEVO Summer Trail Crew
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Artificial Turf Discussion**

Wolf welcomed resident Anne Powley to the meeting to discuss the artificial turf at Continental Soldier's Field. Powley (86 West Crescent Avenue) has been advocating to change the rubber tire mulch currently being used on our school playgrounds. In conducting her research, she has learned that artificial turf is also considered hazardous because it contains the same tire mulch. Powley is asking town officials to consider other alternatives before the town commits funding to replace the artificial turf at Continental Soldier's Field. She will be in attendance at tomorrow's council meeting. Meghan Charles (10 Skytop) said she is also very concerned about the tire mulch being used on our playgrounds and in artificial turf. She has also spoken to the mayor and town council about this.

Wolf asked if members would like to submit a letter to the mayor and town council. He will reach out to Mike Kelly, the business administrator and mayor to state our concerns and tell them we are going to research turf options.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Deerfield Terrace Tree Removals**

The Environmental Commission received an email and phone call regarding extensive tree removals at 26 Deerfield Terrace over the last few years. Members discussed strengthening the town's tree ordinance to prevent this from occurring in the future. Wolf will also follow up with the homeowner of a nearby property who has been in contact with various town officials regarding the tree removals.

### **New DPW Building**

McKeon said the mayor has been discussing building a new DPW building. He asked if we should consider looking at green infrastructure practices. Members discussed.

### **Apple Ridge Pumping Update**

Upper Saddle River resident Derek Michalski said that for 15 months he has been requesting a meeting between Boswell Engineering and affected residents. He asked the Commission to request this meeting so they can discuss the pumping that is still occurring on the affected properties. Harry Gaulden, a Ramsey resident who owns a small water purification system in Upper Saddle River, said he has also seen this affecting residents who own properties – the aquifer of water on the site has been disturbed, which is a problem. He said NJ has the highest rate of autism across the country, which can also be attributed to drinking water. Gaulden said he would be happy to come to an upcoming meeting to discuss this in more length.

**OLD BUSINESS, continued****Tree Giveaway – Saturday, April 13, 2019**

Our Tree Giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. DPW will get the trees from the pickup location in Paramus and deliver to town hall. Members discussed their responsibilities.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Pallotta. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms  
Secretary