

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:40 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
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Students from Mahwah High School (attending)

Students from Ramapo College (presenting)

James Costanzo
Julia Chirichella
Patrick Farrell
Chris Hernandez
Kendall Poland
Gabrielle Carpenter
Victoria Eichenlaub
Alyssa Bonheur

Absent: Linda Meisel
Daniel Weixeldorfer

The minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2016 were approved as submitted following a motion by Mr. Reilly; seconded by Mrs. Phiefer. All members were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Bike Path Presentation – Ramapo College’s World Sustainability Class

Mr. Wolf introduced the students from Karin LaGreca’s World Sustainability Class at Ramapo College, who gave a presentation on their ideas for a town-wide bike path.

James Costanzo discussed the overall economic and environmental benefits of using solar panels and pervious surfaces on a bike path. The students found these two types of materials to be the most sustainable. Mr. Costanzo highlighted an Idaho company that specializes in tempered solar glass, which can be used on roadways or a proposed bike path. He also presented bike path case studies in the Netherlands.

Julia Chirichella explained how the renewable solar energy produced by the pathway and solar panels can potentially help the town combat stormwater issues.

Patrick Farrell highlighted the economic benefits of using solar power on a bike path. He said there would be a bigger investment up front, but solar panels are more durable and cost effective in the long-term (for example, after 10 years).

Mr. Costanzo said there are some disadvantages of solar panels, including price per square foot. The panels may also be damaged by punctures and do not get as much direct sunlight because they are not tilted.

Next, the students discussed pervious surfaces, which include interlocking concrete pavers or porous asphalt. Mr. Costanzo said these types of surfaces provide better water drainage and conserve water. He presented a case study in Middleton, Wisconsin that used porous asphalt and saved the town \$3,500 per year over using impervious asphalt. He said porous asphalt is just \$10 to \$15 more per ton than asphalt.

Ms. Chirichella then discussed the environmental benefits of using porous asphalt, such as reducing runoff and contamination of nearby waterways, as well as reducing flooding as the porous asphalt collects water.

Mr. Farrell said stormwater management systems are not needed with pervious surfaces. They require less maintenance costs compared to asphalt with drains and pipe systems, and will replenish aquifers for drinking water. He said they do not cost significantly more than non-pervious surfaces (approximately 15% more in upfront costs), so they represent the second best option over solar roadways. Mr. Costanzo discussed the labor and time to install and maintain this type of asphalt. He said they need vacuum sweeping and four inspections per year.

Chris Hernandez summarized the group's findings and discussed the overall benefits of producing renewable solar energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, combatting issues with stormwater and flooding, and improving soil quality. He said that while it may be more expensive initially, it can save money in the long term.

The next group discussed the environmental, economic and social benefits for a bike path. Kendall Poland said a bike path will open up connections around town, give you a sense of place, and connect you to museums, schools, other towns. A bike path will also help drive more business to locations across the town.

Gabrielle Carpenter discussed how the bike path can contribute to a cleaner environment by reducing air pollution, vehicle emissions, water pollution, and destruction of animal habitats.

Victoria Eichenlaub highlighted the social benefits of the bike path for the town of Mahwah as well as for Ramapo College. She said the bike path can foster community involvement and bring people together, creating more support for local businesses. Ms. Eichenlaub also discussed the overall physical and mental health benefits for bike path users.

Alyssa Bonheur discussed how the bike path can foster a restorative environment, helping to boost moods and uplift spirits, benefiting the entire Bergen County community. She said the bike path is also in line with the college's mission statement and core values.

Mr. Wolf thanked the students for the wonderful presentation. He said the environmental and social aspects of the bike path would be a boon to the Mahwah community.

Teterboro Airport FAA Flight Pattern Change

Mr. Marcus gave an update on 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. The flight path testing has now begun.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following soil movement permit applications were reviewed:

Zoccoli Associates, 16 Fairmount, Block 173, Lot 120.02, BOA#1276-08(S3)

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application submitted by Zoccoli Associates for the construction of a new home.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please have the applicant confirm if there is any tree removal required beyond the four trees noted on the site plan.

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

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

The Environmental Commission reviewed an updated Soil Movement Permit Application, with new Tree Preservation Application, submitted by Steven Balcof & Samantha Palmer for the construction of a new home. At our last meeting, the members approved the Soil Movement Application but requested the tree removal associated with the project. The Tree Preservation Application indicates there are total of 85 trees on the site; 43 will be removed and replaced with 15 trees.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

The Commission recommends that the applicant keep the seven trees on the outer edge of the disturbance area (outside the construction area). We recommend the mature trees remain as there is no need to remove them.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed:

Aerial Flyte Club, LLC, 45 Whitney Road, Unit 15B, Block 173, Lot 147, TA16-0016
Personal training/fitness instruction

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

Lifestar Pharma, LLC, 1200 Macarthur Boulevard, Second Floor, Block 139, Lot 2, TA16-0017
Marketing and distribution of generic pharmaceuticals

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

Angie's Gourmet Deli and Catering, 72 Franklin Turnpike, Block 68, Lot 15, TA16-0018
Bakery and deli

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

Michael Maris Associates, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Block 51, Lot 8, TA16-0019
Civil engineering consultants; traffic and parking

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

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Final letter prepared by the Environmental Commission regarding the proposed flight pattern change at Teterboro Airport.
- Hackensack Tidelines, Spring 2016, Volume XIX, Issue 1.
- Marketing brochure from Pannier Graphics.
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices.

OLD BUSINESS

2016 NJDEP Tree Recovery Campaign - April 23rd Tree Giveaway

Members discussed their various responsibilities in preparing for the upcoming tree distribution event on Saturday, April 23 at Town Hall. Members also discussed various ways to promote the event to residents. Mrs. Phiefer prepared a handout to distribute to people picking up seedlings at the event. Mrs. Storms will make copies of the handout.

Energy for Power – Handout

Mr. Seibert distributed an information handout that highlights the amount of energy consumed to produce power in the United States.

Water Quality

Mr. Marcus has been getting a lot of questions from residents regarding PFOA and 1,4 dioxane, in response to recent articles in the media. He will follow up with Brian Campion to confirm our most recent testing levels.

Pilgrim Pipeline Update

Mr. Marcus said Pilgrim has now completed its surveys of our land. Officials will continue to meet to oppose the pipeline in their respective jurisdictions.

Teterboro Airport FAA Flight Pattern Change - continued

Mr. Marcus urged everyone to get as many people as they can to file complaints with the FAA regarding the new flight path testing. He will forward everyone the link to the website.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Marcus; seconded by Mr. Wolf. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary