

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chairman. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Jonathan Marcus
Carol Phiefer
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Karin LaGreca, Sustainable Jersey Consultant (arrived at 7:55 p.m.)
Students from Mahwah High School

Absent: Linda Meisel
Richard Reilly
Daniel Weixeldorfer

The minutes of the meeting held on April 8, 2015 were approved as submitted following a motion by Mr. Seibert; seconded by Mr. Marcus. All were in favor.

Mr. Wolf welcomed the visiting Mahwah High School students and briefly explained the role of the Environmental Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor's Wellness Day - Green/Health Fair

May 16, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mahwah Senior Activity Center

Mr. Wolf gave an overview to the visiting students of our involvement in the upcoming Mayor's Wellness Day. We will have four tables at the fair. Green topics will highlight the four main environmental goals of the Township's Master Plan - water conservation/management, energy conservation, transportation alternatives and recycling. Event setup will begin at 8 a.m. that day.

Emergency Management – Flood Control Questionnaire

Mr. Wolf gave an overview to the visiting students of our Sustainable Jersey efforts. Mr. Wolf and Mrs. LaGreca have scheduled two meetings to discuss an Emergency Management - Flood Control questionnaire for our Sustainable Jersey certification. We have scheduled a planning meeting with a representative from the Resiliency Network for April 23 at 9 a.m. Mr. Wolf and Mrs. LaGreca will then meet with township officials on April 30 at 10 a.m. to present the questionnaire.

Lake Henry Cleanup

During the April 8 meeting, Mrs. LaGreca said she had received comments that there was a lot of litter around Lake Henry. She and her students have since gone out and conducted a cleanup. Rich suggested we consider doing a public park cleanup routinely.

New Jersey Federation Shade Tree Foundation

Mr. Wolf distributed the membership cards for 2015.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY PROJECT UPDATESEnvironmental Resource Inventory

Mr. Marcus has spoken to Dave Roberts, Todd Scherer and the Planning Board to identify the steps we need to take to incorporate the town's Environmental Resource Inventory into the Master Plan. On May 4, the Planning Board will hold a public meeting to begin the process. The public will be notified of the meeting. In order to receive credit for Sustainable Jersey, the report must be included in our Master Plan.

Shredding Program

Mr. Wolf asked Mrs. Storms to see if the Mayor's Office has received the tonnage report from the company that managed our April 11 shredding day. She will ask them to forward a copy of the report to us when it is available.

Annual Report for Commission

Rich is preparing our Annual Report for another five points toward our Sustainable Jersey certification.

Members also briefly discussed some other initiatives we are thinking about are for Sustainable Jersey, such as a "Cut It and Leave It" program. Mr. Wolf said he will ask Mrs. LaGreca for an update on where we are at with our certification.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Mark & Alison Herman, 18 Babbit Bridge Road, Block 164, Lot 53

E-BD-216-304-604

Memo to Administrative Officer:

"The Environmental Commission reviewed the Soil Movement Permit and Tree Preservation Applications submitted by Mark & Alison Herman to install an in-ground pool, patio and fence at 18 Babbit Bridge Road. Please note that under the soil movement permit "description of soil to be moved," the figures need correction (page 1). The volume of cut plus import must equal fill plus export. The Soil Movement Permit Application is approved.

The Tree Preservation Application states there are currently 10 trees on the site that will be removed and replaced. Please note that replacement trees are required to be native deciduous hardwoods such as oak, maple, hickory and others. Douglas Fir and Scotch

Pine may be planted on the property, but they will not count as replacement trees. The Commission also requests the applicant provide a plan showing the layout of where the new replacement trees will be planted. This Tree Preservation Application is approved.”

cc: Township Engineer

Mr. Marcus also gave students a brief overview of the types of trees that can be used as replacement trees.

Albert Valetutti, 70 Brookwood Drive, Block 123, Lot 131

E-BD-216-2797

Memo to Administrative Officer:

“The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application submitted by Albert Valetutti to demolish and discard an existing house as well as install new pre-fab foundation wall and house at 70 Brookwood Drive. Please note that under the soil movement permit “description of soil to be moved,” the figures need correction (page 1). The volume of cut plus import must equal fill plus export. The Soil Movement Permit Application is approved.”

cc: Township Engineer

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

- Ramsey Subaru, 25 McKee Drive, Block 64, Lot 1, TA 15-0009
Automotive Repair facility

Mr. Wolf also gave students an overview of the Commission’s role in reviewing tenant applications.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY UPDATES, CONTINUED

When Mrs. LaGreca arrived at the meeting, she gave some additional updates on the status of her work.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Mrs. LaGreca will look into what we need in the report before we adopt it into the master plan. She will forward any relevant action items to Mr. Marcus.

Shredding Program

As discussed, Mrs. Storms will ask the Mayor’s Office for the tonnage report. Upon receipt, she will send it to Mrs. LaGreca. Mr. Wolf will also send Mrs. LaGreca photos from April 11 for inclusion in our Sustainable Jersey documentation.

Visual Recycling Flyer

Mr. Phiefer will send any relevant feedback to Mrs. LaGreca, who has someone ready to do a flyer.

Mayor's Wellness Day - Green/Health Fair

Members provided Mrs. LaGreca with an update on who will be in attendance during the Green Fair. An approved flyer is out now – Mrs. Storms will submit the information for inclusion on our Cable TV channel.

Mrs. LaGreca asked Mr. Marcus to send him any details he has on a run that took place in October. He has also been working on a garden with the Girl Scouts at George Washington School. He will forward her any relevant information so she can document it for Sustainable Jersey.

Anti-Idling Initiative

Mrs. LaGreca asked Mr. Wolf to look into the town's anti-idling ordinance one final time.

Site Plan Review Checklist

Mrs. Storms is keeping a Site Plan spreadsheet of everything we have reviewed in 2015. She will submit it to Mrs. LaGreca on May 30 to submit to Sustainable Jersey.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding statewide Earth Day events and a website located at www.earthdayNJ.org highlighting upcoming environmental initiatives. Mrs. LaGreca will add the upcoming Mayor's Wellness Day to the website.
- Copy of a letter from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding an area of concern for one 2,000-gallon #2 heating oil underground storage tank system located at 59 Masonicus Road, which states that no further action is necessary for the remediation of the area.
- Copy of a letter from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding a classification exception area/well restriction area for contamination in the ground water at the Mahwah Citgo located at 48 Franklin Turnpike.
- 48 Franklin Turnpike, Mahwah Citgo – notification from DEP
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices.

NEW BUSINESSPassaic River Coalition Property in Mahwah - Block 40, Lots 3, 4 and 5

The Environmental Commission received an email from a representative from the Passaic River Coalition regarding a property located in Mahwah (Block 40, Lots 3, 4 & 5). The Coalition is reducing the number of land holdings it is responsible for and would like to know if Mahwah Township would be interested in taking title to the property, subject to the restriction in place that it remains open space for passive conservation and recreation. The email was also sent to Town Council and the Business Administrator. We believe the property is in a flood zone. Mr. Wolf said he will speak to the Business Administrator about what this would entail.

OLD BUSINESS, CONTINUEDLake Henry Cleanup

Mrs. LaGreca updated the group that her students did a cleanup of the lake. Mr. Wolf mentioned that a request came in that the next time we do a cleanup we publicize it for more participation. He said we might consider doing something like this on a regular basis.

Protecting Your Trees and Shrubs From Hungry Deer

Mrs. LaGreca brought back brochures from the recent Deer Presentation held on March 26. We will keep several on file in the office for future reference.

Beautification Committee Presentation

Mrs. LaGreca recently gave a rain garden presentation to the Township's Beautification Committee. The group reacted very favorable to the presentation, and are interested in installing a rain garden on the east side of the railroad station facing Veteran's Park. They also mentioned they may be restructuring in the future, and are wondering about the possibility of becoming a subcommittee of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Wolf said we will provide the committee with any additional resources or information as needed.

Photo ID Cards

Mr. Seibert inquired as to the status of the ID Cards the Police Department is working on for members. Mrs. Storms will check on the status.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Marcus; seconded by Mr. Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary