

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Richard Wolf, Chair
 Janet Ariemma (excused early at 7:58 p.m.)
 Tom McKeon
 Frank Pallotta, Planning Board Liaison
 Carol Phiefer
 Richard Seibert

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Karin LaGreca

The minutes of the meeting held on April 10, 2019 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Pallotta. All other present members were in favor.

PRESENTATION

Apple Ridge Update

Wolf welcomed Township Engineer Mike Kelly to discuss stormwater issues and discuss how we review site plans. Kelly explained his role in reviewing plot plans, specifically stormwater detention basins and impervious coverage requirements. Kelly also discussed the overall site plan, soil movement and tree preservation approval process. Tree removal has become an issue that the town is trying to address. Members discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Recycling Updates

Senior Citizen Bulk Recycling Program – May 4, 2019

McKeon said his planning for the Senior Citizen Bulk Recycling Program is going well. He currently has 22 senior citizens registered for the program. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 4. Scouts from Troop 258 are participating.

Artificial Floating Island

McKeon said the artificial floating island is beginning to grow again and looks good.

Rain Garden

Seibert said he recently cleaned up around the rain garden.

New Jersey Youth Audubon Initiative

The Mayor's Office approved Aiden Dartley's proposal to plant bird-friendly native species near Lake Henry.

Repair Café Initiative

Wolf said the town will not be moving forward with the Repair Café at this point. Liability insurance was a concern. The Library Board also declined to participate at this time. Wolf will follow up with the event organizer to inform her of our decision.

Recycling Center Update

McKeon asked what our next steps should be in supporting green building practices for a new recycling center. Members discussed.

NJYA Tree Planting Tree Giveaway – Saturday, April 13, 2019

Our Tree Giveaway took place on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wolf said this year's turnout was lower than in previous years, but overall the event was still a success.

Deerfield Terrace Tree Removals

The Environmental Commission recently 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 also followed up with the neighbor who has been in contact with various town officials regarding the tree removals.

New Homeowner Welcome Package

Phiefer asked if the town sends out welcome packages to new homeowners. Members discussed compiling an environmental handout.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

None received

TENANT APPLICATIONS

None received

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Response Action Outcome letter for 280 Route 17, Block 136, Lot 5.02
- Classification Exception Area/Well Restriction Area Fact Sheet Form for H&K Bus Transportation, 300 Route 17
- Marketing brochure from Sir Speedy printing
- Email newsletters from the Hackensack Riverkeeper and NY/NJ Trail Conference
- Email from CDP Cities regarding upcoming webinars
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

ANJEC Training Session

ANJEC is hosting a training session entitled 2019 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions on Saturday, May 18 in Ridgefield. Wolf asked if any members were interested in attending.

Hytorc, Route 17 Tree Replacement Plan

The Planning Office indicated that Hytorc wishes to plant 10 Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac Trees. The company was already approved for renovations and submitted a soil application. The Planning Office asked for our input on whether this type of tree can be used as a replacement tree. Wolf said he does not have an issue with this variety of tree being planted, however this particular type of tree is not on our approved list. Wolf asked if the Commission wants to make an exception. All members were in favor of approving the plan with the stipulation that if the trees die within five years, they must be replaced one for one with trees on our approved list.

Lilac Plant Donation

Wolf received an email from a local resident who would like to donate lilac plants to the town. Members discussed. Mrs. Storms will also send to Janet Ariemma, Karin LaGreca and the town's Beautification Committee.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Pallotta. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary