

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma  
Karin LaGreca (arrived 7:51 p.m.)  
Carol Phiefer  
Richard Seibert  
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Michael Devaney  
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

Wolf requested a minor change to an item listed in the minutes from April 11, 2018. The amended minutes of the meeting held on April 11, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Littering Issues

At our last meeting, LaGreca noted an increase in litter at businesses around town. Specifically, she said the garbage cans were overflowing at the car wash in town. Seibert went to the car wash. On his first visit, he said several garbage cans were still full and there was trash on the ground. He followed up at the car wash a second time and said everything looked much better on his second visit.

2018 Water Quality Summit – Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

Wolf said the Water Quality Summit went well. There were about 25 members of the public in attendance. A wide variety of issues was addressed and Wolf said he received good feedback about the forum. He suggested we try to focus more on water conservation at a future forum.

Tree Giveaway – Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Wolf said the Tree Giveaway went well and we gave out all of the 1,500 trees that we received this year.

Orange & Rockland Vegetation Management Plan Meeting

On April 17, Commission members met with representatives from Orange & Rockland, DPW and the Mayor to discuss the utility company's tree removal plans in town. Ariemma suggested we look into hiring a certified tree expert to coordinate our tree

removal and replacement plans. Seibert will follow up with the DPW regarding the town's tree removal plans.

#### Apple Ridge Issue

Seibert read a recent EPA post regarding a Clean Water Act Settlement with Toll Brothers. Seibert said there could be soil erosion at Apple Ridge due to the recent heavy rains, and said the storm water being pumped off the property could possibly be contaminated. Wolf said he would like to see the article, and then reach out to town officials to see whether this was investigated at all.

#### Rain Garden Update – Cleanup Day on Sunday, May 6 at 1 p.m.

LaGreca said we are having a volunteer cleanup day on Sunday, May 6 at 1 p.m. All are invited. At the cleanup, we will also take inventory on what supplies are needed this year for the garden. LaGreca is going to invite some of her students as well.

#### Sustainable Jersey Update

LaGreca gave an update on the status of our Sustainable Jersey efforts and reminded members to continue working on their respective assignments. LaGreca also said she needs photos from the recent town-wide garage sale.

#### Lake Henry Cleanup

LaGreca said she recently hosted a cleanup at Lake Henry with her students. She noted there is still significant flooding near the pump house.

#### Artificial Floating Island – Saturday, June 16

LaGreca gave a brief update on the status of the work for the artificial floating island at Winter's Pond. The installation of the island is still scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2018.

### **SITE PLAN REVIEWS**

*None received*

### **SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Deon & Thelma Minnaar, 96 Lehmann Street, Block 159, Lot 9.02, E-BD-216-304-644

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application for the construction of a pool, patio and open porch on the property. The Tree Preservation Application indicates there are 52 trees on the property.

#### *Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:*

Please have the applicant clarify the figures listed under "Description of Soil to be Moved." Please also ensure the applicant tests any soil that is being imported. A minimum of at least two trees need to be replaced; however there was no landscape plan provided. Finally, please confirm that the slope created before the retaining wall will not create any run-off problems.

The application review was accepted following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by LaGreca. All were in favor.

Terry & Maria Feeney, 740 Wyckoff Avenue, Block 165, Lot 2, E-BD-216-304-645

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application for the construction of a pool, patio and spa on the property.

The application review was accepted following a motion made by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. All were in favor.

### **TENANT APPLICATIONS**

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Crown Castle USA, Inc., 1200 MacArthur Boulevard, Block 139, Lot 2, TA18-0017

*Cell tower installations*

Lithia Ramsey – T, LLC, 16 McKee Drive, Block 65, Lot 1, TA18-0018

*Continued operation of Toyota service facility*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of a council resolution for the Environmental Commission to apply for a 2018 ANJEC Open Space Grant for \$1,500
- Copy of a public notice from EcolSciences, Inc. regarding a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit for Block 1601, Lot 8 in Franklin Lakes
- Hackensack Tidelines Newsletter, Spring 2018, Volume XXI, Issue 1
- Email from the Hackensack Riverkeeper regarding Earthfest on May 20
- Email from CDP Cities regarding CDP Cities 2018 guidance documents
- Email regarding an upcoming grant writing workshop at Rutgers
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Recycling Center Update

Prior to our last meeting, the commission received an email from a resident regarding the state of the recycling center in town. Wolf followed up with the resident. Members discussed developing a plan for a better recycling center in town, or potentially exploring the concept of sharing services with a town like Ramsey or Allendale. Seibert said he will visit the recycling center in Ramsey to see the other town's layout.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:24 p.m. following a motion by Wolf; seconded by LaGreca. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms  
Secretary