

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma  
Michael Devaney  
Karin LaGreca  
Carol Phiefer  
Richard Seibert  
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on April 25, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by LaGreca. Devaney abstained. All other members were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Rain Garden Update

The Rain Garden sign was recently vandalized. LaGreca filed a police report and spoke to the sign vendor. The entire sign may need to be replaced.

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 remains scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2018.

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. Wolf said we should try to finish our assignments before our next meeting on May 23.

Rain Garden Cleanup

LaGreca said we had a cleanup at the Rain Garden over the weekend. Several high school and college students were in attendance.

Arborist Update

Wolf said we have invited the arborist from Franklin Lakes to attend an upcoming meeting and discuss his qualifications.

Apple Ridge Issue

At our last meeting, Seibert discussed an EPA Clean Water Act Settlement with Toll Brothers regarding soil erosion at Apple Ridge due to the recent heavy rains, and asked whether the stormwater being pumped off the property could possibly be contaminated. Wolf reached out to town officials for more information. Upper Saddle River resident Derek Michalski, 71 & 67 Pleasant Avenue, Upper Saddle River, was in attendance and said he witnessed the contaminated stormwater being pumped illegally onto his property as well as his neighbor's property.

New Rain Garden Partnership

Derek Michalski proposed a partnership with the Environmental Commission regarding the installation of a community garden at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Michalski will send Wolf additional information on this initiative.

**SITE PLAN REVIEWS**

*None received*

**SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Geiger Road Construction, LLC, 128 Stag Hill Road, Block 9, Lot 2, Docket #1428-17(S)

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application and Tree Preservation Application for the construction of a single-family dwelling on the property. The Tree Preservation Application indicates nine trees will be removed, with three replacement trees of the Pin Oak and Red Maple varieties.

*Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:*

Please have the applicant clarify information on the Site Plan. The application is presented as 128 Stag Hill Road, however the variance submitted states 0 Stag Hill Road. The Tree Preservation Application also needs to identify trees to be removed.

The application review was rejected pending clarification on the applications.

**TENANT APPLICATIONS**

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

RJ Brands, 200 Performance Way, Block 26, Lot 1.02, TA18-0019

*Wholesale small kitchen appliance*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from the Highlands Council regarding the availability of funding in the Highlands Open Space Partnership Funding Program
- Email newsletter from the New York – New Jersey Trail Conference
- Email newsletters from the Hackensack Riverkeeper
- Email from CDP Cities regarding upcoming webinars

- Copy of a letter from EcolSciences regarding Amendment to the Sept. 19, 2016 RAO-A for the storage tanks removed from the former Apple Ridge County Club property
- Town Resolution dated April 19, 2018 authorizing the Commission to apply for a 2018 ANJEC Open Space Grant
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Sheraton Water Requirements**

Seibert met with Paul Scherer to discuss potential water requirements for the new housing being built on the Sheraton Property. He distributed an informational handout estimating future water usage.

#### **Application Update: Sean Royle, 16 Skytop Drive, Block 154, Lot 17, Docket #1413-16**

Devaney attended the latest Board of Adjustment meeting regarding the status of this application, which the Commission reviewed in September. Devaney said the Board expects to render a decision at its next meeting.

#### **Ramapo College Student Wetlands Research**

LaGreca said her students that were conducting research of the wetlands in town is on hold until further notice.

#### **Board Approval Procedures**

Devaney said he is going to reach out to the Planning Board every few weeks to check on the status of applications we will be reviewing at our meetings.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. following a motion by LaGreca; seconded by Phiefer. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms  
Secretary