

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Michael Devaney
Karin LaGreca
Richard Reilly
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Carol Phiefer
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by LaGreca. Devaney abstained. All other members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainable Jersey Grant for Rain Garden

Wolf said we were awarded a \$20,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey for the creation of our Rain Garden at Winter's Pond. Our next step is to create a proposal for the project and send the proposal out to bid. LaGreca said she will invite a representative from Rutgers to attend an upcoming meeting to teach members about rain gardens. Members discussed the timeline for the development of the rain garden. Wolf said he would like to identify a contractor by the end of June, and have the rain garden completed by the end of August in time for a grand opening at Mahwah Day in September. Members also discussed other ideas for the project, including aesthetics, signage and ways to encourage people to utilize the rain garden once it is completed.

ANJEC Open Space Grant Submission

Wolf said we received notice that we were not selected for the \$1,500 ANJEC Open Space Grant to support the Robotics Team Clean Water Initiative. Wolf said he would like to try to support the project somehow with our own funding. He will reach out to the student to see if they are still interested.

Water Testing

Ariemma discussed some of her ideas regarding ways to make water testing more accessible to residents. Wolf asked her to research her ideas and present the information to the group when she is ready.

Patel Litigation Update

Wolf said the next municipal court hearing is scheduled for May 11, 2017 at 9 a.m. He reached out to the attorney representing Patel regarding the remediation plan. We received a letter this week providing copies of the prior remediation plan submitted by the defendant in July 2015. The plan is very difficult to read, and members agreed it is not sufficient for us to make any recommendations. Wolf said he will attend the hearing tomorrow to discuss the issue with the prosecutor.

Tree Giveaway Update

We gave out approximately 1,500 trees on April 22 and several hundred more at the Town Garage Sale. Members discussed how to best promote next year's tree giveaway.

Carol Phiefer Update

Phiefer is still recovering from her recent surgery. Members discussed sending her a get well soon gift.

MEVO Earth Crew Initiative – Stag Hill Soil Testing

LaGreca said the presentation of the EIS regarding the research on Stag Hill by the MEVO Earth Crew and Ramapo College students is scheduled for June 28, 2017. The project included soil testing of various dump sites and studied the ecological impact of off-road vehicles on the mountain.

Route 202 & Darlington Avenue Cleanup

Prior to our last meeting, the town received an email from a Mahwah resident asking for a cleanup of the roadway around Darlington Avenue and Route 202. DPW has scheduled a cleanup by the Bergen County work release program on May 10 & 11.

Former Abex Property – 65 Ramapo Valley Road

At our April 26 meeting, Seibert distributed photos of the former Abex Property at the end of Railroad Avenue and asked for an update on the soil testing at the site. Storms reached out to the Health Department for the monitoring reports and test results. The last correspondence the Health Department has received is dated July 10, 2013. We are awaiting an update from DEP on the status of the site.

Pilgrim Pipeline Update

Ariemma noted her concerns with the Pilgrim Pipeline. She said we should continue to fight against the pipeline at all costs. Wolf asked Ariemma to prepare an outline of her concerns to use as an article in the next town newsletter or as a future letter to the editor.

Off-Shore Drilling

Ariemma asked about off-shore drilling and whether we should take a stand on the issue. Members agreed that while this is not a Mahwah-specific issue, it is an important environmental issue and any affected residents should reach out to their legislators regarding their concerns.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

6 Hines Avenue, LLC, Block 42, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, Docket #583

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Planning Board Application for a minor subdivision on the site.

The Site Plan review was accepted with no comments following a motion made by Reilly; seconded by Seibert. All were in favor.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

None received

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Mahwah Pet Center, 346 Forest Road, Block 167, Lot 53, TA17-0028

Veterinarian, Dog & Cat Boarding, Dog Grooming & Training

Little Kitchen, LLC, 190 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lots 18 & 19, TA17-0030

Restaurant

US Gymnastics Development Center 2, 6 Leighton Place, Block 173, Lot 135, TA17-0029

Recreational cheerleading and tumbling

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Call from a resident who would like to know if it is possible for Crystal Pond to be dredged. Storms will reach out to the resident for more details and an address.
- Email from CDP Cities regarding upcoming training sessions and webinars
- Email from Homewood Suites Mahwah regarding volunteer opportunities in town
- Email regarding Project Management Master Certification training
- Letter and invite regarding upcoming Bergen County Parks Master Planning Community Meetings
- Copy of a letter from Boswell Engineering regarding WJA Associates, LLC's Use Variance Application for 185 Route 17 and 40 Avenue A, Block 59, Lots 18, 19, 20 & 21
- Newsletter of the Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah, April 2017, Volume 5, Issue 4
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Wind Turbine Handout

Seibert distributed an informational handout highlighting the world's largest turbine blade in Denmark.

Water Quality Report Handout

Seibert distributed copies of the 2016 Water Quality Report for Mahwah for discussion.

Parks Update

Devaney asked if there was any update on the status of the issue with non-residents using our parks. Wolf will follow up with the town's ordinance committee.

Environmental Commission Polo Shirts

Wolf discussed the quotes we received for new polo shirts. He made a motion to purchase the shirts in dune (beige) with dark green lettering for a total of no more than \$300; seconded by Seibert. All members were in favor. Storms will place the order.

Member ID Cards

Devaney asked if the new members can have photo identification cards. Storms will inquire if the Police Department is able to process.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Wolf. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary