

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 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 May 9, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by Devaney; seconded by Seibert. All other members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Application Update: Sean Royle, 16 Skytop Drive, Block 154, Lot 17, Docket #1413-16
Devaney checked on the status and was told the Board of Adjustment at its last meeting approved the application with conditions.

Arborist Update

Phiefer called the arborist in Franklin Lakes to invite him to an upcoming meeting. Ariemma also said a resident has asked us if we can replace a cherry blossom tree on Orchard Drive. She asked that this be added to the list of action items for the licensed tree expert to consider. Wolf said cherry blossom trees are not on our approved list of replacement trees; he will respond to the constituent.

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 storm water being pumped off the property could possibly be contaminated. Wolf reached out to town officials for more information and was told everything was done in compliance with Bergen County & NJDEP sign-off. As the complaints were filed in Upper Saddle River, any follow-up would need to be performed in that jurisdiction. Ariemma indicated that the Mahwah Town Council requested our Planning Department to ensure that any stop work orders existing in Mahwah were being enforced and if new violations were occurring there should be action taken in Mahwah. We will get updates on Town Council actions at our next meeting.

2017 Annual Report

Wolf is finalizing the 2017 Annual Report and will file it shortly.

2018 ANJEC Grant Request

Wolf said we were not selected for an ANJEC Grant for the 2018 grant round. ANJEC indicated some hesitancy related to dealing with toxins and chemicals as part of the clean-up. Members discussed ANJEC's comments to increase our potential for a successful grant request going forward.

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. We will file the necessary points for Bronze certification by the June 2nd deadline.

Rain Garden Update

LaGreca said the Rain Garden sign that was recently vandalized is able to be fixed.

New Rain Garden Partnership

At our last meeting, a resident proposed a partnership with the Environmental Commission regarding the installation of a community garden at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The resident said he would send Wolf additional information on this initiative. To date, Wolf has not yet received the information.

PRESENTATION

Update on Installation of Artificial Floating Island – Saturday, June 16

Local Boy Scout troop leader and resident Tom McKeon, 70 Malcolm Road, gave an update on the status of the upcoming installation of the artificial floating island at Winter's Pond. McKeon has scheduled the launch for 3 p.m. that afternoon. He also discussed the signage he plans to have made for the island.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

None received

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Vigorito, Barker, Porter & Patterson, LLP, 1 International Blvd., 7th Floor, #710, Block 26, Lot 2, TA18-0021

Law Firm

Michael Donofrio, 9-15 Miller Road, Upper Level, Block 71, Lot 16, TA18-0020

Personal Training

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email from ANJEC regarding our grant application for the 2018 Grant Round
- Letter from Boswell Engineering regarding a Soil Movement Application for Andrey Zalusky, 11 Harvin Place, Block 167, Lot 62
- Letter from Environmental Technology Inc. regarding an application for a freshwater wetlands letter of interpretation – line verification for Craig and Patricia Clifford, Halifax Road, Block 1, Lot 130.08
- Email from the Township Clerk regarding the availability of 75 Redbud Trees that are available from the Borough of River Edge
- Copy of a letter from Applied Earth Solutions Inc. regarding the Former Texaco Service Station on 48 Franklin Turnpike
- Copy of a letter from the NJDEP regarding an Area of Concern: Three 550-gallon #2 Heating Oil Underground Storage Tank Systems at 1071 Ramapo Valley Road, Block 23, Lot 45
- Copy of a letter from Peak Environmental LLC regarding compliance with the NJDEP Public Notification and Outreach Requirement for Stateline Business Park
- Email newsletters from the Hackensack Riverkeeper, NY-NJ Trail Conference and Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah (April/May 2018, Volume 6, No. 4)
- 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 layout in town, or potentially exploring the concept of sharing services with a town like Ramsey or Allendale. Seibert has since visited the Ramsey Recycling Center to see its layout. Based on his observations, he has proposed a new layout for Mahwah's Recycling Center that will improve traffic flow. Members commended Seibert for his work and we will present the alternative plan to DPW and the Town Council.

New Resident Information

Phiefer asked when a new resident moves into town if they are provided with any sort of welcome package. Members discussed the benefits of doing something online for new residents.

Resident Mailing

Seibert distributed a mailing that a neighbor received from a company offering to purchase homes at discounts.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. following a motion by LaGreca; seconded by Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary