

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:43 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Michael Devaney
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary
George Stafford, Outreach Director, New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Absent: Karin LaGreca
Carol Phiefer
Richard Reilly
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on May 10, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Devaney. All other members were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Space Resolution – Presentation by NJ Highlands Coalition

Wolf introduced George Stafford, Outreach Director for the NJ Highlands Coalition. Stafford presented an Open Space Resolution drafted by the Coalition that calls for the ongoing support of sustainable open space, farmland, historic preservation and stewardship funding for New Jersey. The resolution also calls for the restoration of funding to the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program, which increases available funding from the state to allow municipalities to purchase open space they may not otherwise be able to purchase. Stafford distributed copies of the resolution for the Commission's review and consideration. Wolf made a motion to support the resolution; seconded by Devaney. All other members were in favor. Wolf and Storms will prepare the resolution to present to Town Council.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Henry Cortes, 87 Skytop Drive, Block 154, Lot 33, Dkt #1381-14(s)

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Application for the construction of a new pool and patio.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please ensure the plans are completed in accordance with the variance presented in 2014.

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

Brian Blum and Edie Green-Blum, 37 Bayberry Drive, Block 123, Lot 1, E-BD-216-2982
The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Application and Tree Preservation Application for the construction of a single-family home. The applicant would like to remove six trees and make zero replacements.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please note the applicant should replace two trees if removing six on the property.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

Montvale Moving Services, LLC, 1 Scherer Place, Block 71, Lot 13
Office and storage

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from Boswell McClave Engineering regarding QuickChek Corporation's review of tree replacement, lighting and landscape plan for 280 & 290 Route 17 South
- Letter from the NJDEP regarding an application withdrawal of Freshwater Wetlands General Permit No. 10A for the Beltramini Property, Block 1, Lot 157
- Letter from Stonefield Engineering & Design regarding NJDOT Major Access Permit Application for a food store with fuel sales on Route 17, Block 136, Lots 5.01 & 5.02
- Email from the Hackensack Riverkeeper regarding the Reservoir Paddle Series
- Newsletter of the Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah, April 2017, Volume 5, Issue 4
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

OLD BUSINESS

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 received was dated July 10, 2013. The Health Department spoke to William Dunnell, Remediation Specialist from Viridian Environmental, who advised that the property was remediated in the 1980s so there is no longer any testing conducted at the site. The only activity on the site is the maintenance of a grass covering (cutting the lawn) that was installed there. They are required to submit a biennial report to the NJDEP on any activity that occurs at the site, which would

only consist of the cutting of the grass cover. Commission members requested we ask the Health Department what the company was originally required to do for the site remediation in the 1980s. Storms will request the information.

Parks Update

Seibert said a friend of his told him there was a large group of non-residents that went to Winters Pond on May 17, 2017. He asked if there is any update on the status of out-of-towners using and littering in our parks. Wolf said this is still with the ordinance committee.

Immaculate Heart Academy Volunteer

The Commission received an email from a student at Immaculate Heart Academy inquiring about volunteer opportunities. LaGreca is following up.

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 reached out to the vendor and requested they complete a W9 and Vendor Info sheet.

Crystal Pond Resident Request

Prior to its last meeting, the Commission received a call from a resident who wanted to know if it is possible for Crystal Pond to be dredged. Storms reached out to the resident for more details and an address, as we are not aware of any Crystal Pond on Mahwah. There was no answer or voicemail on two separate occasions.

Rain Garden Update

Wolf said in the coming weeks we are meeting with representatives from Rutgers Environmental Studies Department to get the proposal process moving for our rain garden at Winter's Pond. Members discussed the timeline for the development of the rain garden as well as other ideas for the project, including aesthetics and signage. 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.

Ariemma said during the last town Council meeting she proposed the idea of holding a Street Fair in town and proposed it at the last town council meeting. She said the Council discussed doing it in conjunction with Mahwah Day.

Member ID Cards

During the last meeting, Devaney asked if the new Commission members can have photo identification cards. Storms will take photos and submit them to the Police Department.

Patel Litigation Update

Wolf attended the municipal court hearing on May 11, 2017. He said the defendant pleaded guilty to a maximum fine of \$1,000 per summons, rather than \$1,000 per tree.

Because there were only two summonses issued for violations – rather than 53 summonses for each tree removed – Patel was subject to a total fine of just \$2,000. Members discussed how to amend our summons process or ordinance to ensure that our ordinances are enforceable with their original intent. Storms will look into the status of other similar cases where clear-cutting has occurred.

Shade Tree Commission Proposal

Ariemma asked about the status of creating a Shade Tree Commission in town. Wolf said she should discuss the proposal with the Town Council members; in particular a budget and how to implement a program. Wolf will also request more background from the Mayor and Business Administrator.

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, June 14, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary