

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chairman. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Jonathan Marcus  
Carol Phiefer  
Richard Reilly  
Richard Seibert  
Richard Wolf  
Jennifer Storms (secretary)

Karin LaGreca, Sustainable Jersey Consultant

Absent: Linda Meisel  
Daniel Weixeldorfer

The minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2015 were approved as submitted following a motion by Mr. Reilly; seconded by Mr. Marcus. All were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor's Wellness Day - Green/Health Fair

*May 16, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

*Mahwah Senior Activity Center*

Mr. Wolf said the event was a success with a good mix of sustainable, green and health benefits. We received a lot of great feedback at our tables. Freeholder Tracy Zur was in attendance and offered to connect us with any county resources that might help us get the proposed bike path moving. Our recycling display was also a big hit that many people found informative. Mrs. Storms will follow up with two individuals who were interested in receiving the deer presentation package.

Beautification Committee Project Update

Mr. Wolf gave an update on the status of the Beautification Committee's plans for a rain garden near the train station. He said everyone is in agreement that the rain garden will not go on the east-facing hillside, as was originally discussed. Instead, we are hoping Orange & Rockland will help fund the creation of a rain garden behind the parking lot in Veteran's Park. Mrs. LaGreca is reaching out to ask for potential funding.

Turner Lake

Mr. Wolf spoke to the Business Administrator regarding the algae issue at Turner Lake that a resident recently contacted him about. The lake is private property. The Business Administrator drove by the area and said it did look as though someone had put

something in the lake to help with the algae issue. Mr. Wolf will provide this information to the resident.

#### Chestnut Trees Major Subdivision

Mahwah NL Cedars Developers, LLC and Conklin Associates have asked to present at an upcoming meeting to review the tree removal and subsequent tree replacement within the Mahwah NL Cedars Developers property for a major subdivision on Masonicus Road (Block 126, Lots 127, 129 and 130). They will present to the Commission at our next meeting, which is scheduled for June 10, 2015.

### **SUSTAINABLE JERSEY PROJECT UPDATES**

Mrs. LaGreca went over all of the various pieces she is submitting for our Sustainable Jersey certification. She distributed a handout that itemizes all of the action items she will be submitting. There are several items that need finalization, including:

#### Environmental Resource Inventory

The Mahwah Planning Board adopted the Environmental Resource Inventory at its May 18 meeting. Mr. Marcus will provide Mrs. LaGreca with the presentation used during the meeting to submit along with her Sustainable Jersey paperwork.

#### Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal

Mrs. LaGreca still needs information from the town's last Prescription Drug drop-off. Mr. Marcus will request the additional information from the Chief of Police.

#### Community School Gardens

Mr. Marcus is working on a summary of the initiative.

#### Watershed Conference

Mr. Wolf is preparing a summary.

#### Bike Audit Plan

Mr. Wolf is preparing a summary.

#### Environmental Site Plan Review

Mrs. Storms will update the 2015 Site Plan spreadsheet and submit it to Mrs. LaGreca this week.

Commission members also briefly discussed some additional Sustainable NJ topics that we would like to incorporate into the next Mahwah Day.

### **SITE PLAN REVIEWS**

Apple Ridge Mahwah, LLC, 269 East Crescent Avenue, Block 127, Lot(s) 1, 3-7

Docket #559PF

*Site Plan for major subdivision*

Members discussed the overall site plan and soil movement permit application for a subdivision of the golf course/country club into 34 properties. Mr. Seibert researched the site plan since our last meeting and presented his findings to the group.

Mr. Wolf thanked Mr. Seibert for the information. He suggested the Commission draft a letter to the Planning Board noting all of its concerns, specifically related to tree and soil removal, soil remediation and preservation of the stream on the property. Mr. Wolf suggested we schedule this for the June 24 meeting, where the group will bring all of their respective points to the table. Until then, the plan is available in the Environmental Commission Office for further review. All members were in favor.

### **TENANT APPLICATIONS**

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

- Crown Castle, 1200 Macarthur Boulevard, Block 139, Lot 2  
TA 15-0011  
*Administration of property management and maintenance for wireless infrastructure networks*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from Weissman Engineering Co., P.C. providing notification that Knight Custom Homes is applying to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for a treatment works permit application to construct a sanitary sewer extension at Lot 25, Block 139 on Peterson Place in Mahwah. The Commission would like to request the reason they are looking to construct a sanitary sewer system, as it is not provided in the letter.
- Copy of a letter from TRC Environmental Corporation providing notice that an application for Land Use Regulation Program permit has been submitted to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for Algonquin Gas Transmissions, LLC's Statewide Pipeline Maintenance Project. Our only concern with this matter would be whether nearby residents have also been notified of this permit application.
- Copy of a Notice of Public Hearing from the Borough of Ramsey for amendment of approvals previously granted on a property located in Ramsey's B-3 Highway Commercial Zone at 1 Constantine Drive. The applicant is 686 Island Avenue, LLC.
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Cell Service in Masonicus

Mr. Marcus said the council recently discussed a request to put a cell tower in the Masonicus area, which has a large dead zone. Many residents are opposed to a tower being installed in their neighborhood, but yet they want the cell service. The issue is figuring out how to solve this problem in a way that works for residents. Mr. Wolf said if

someone wants to make a presentation to us about the technology available, we would welcome them to do so.

DPW Recycling Center

Mr. Wolf said he would like to research current best practices at recycling centers and what features a state-of-the-art recycling center would have. He suggested Mrs. LaGreca think about having her students do something. This may be a good project for the Environmental Commission to support in the future.

Solar Power Article

Mr. Seibert distributed a Wall Street Journal article about solar panels and the benefits and drawbacks of installing them on your home.

Recycling Barrels & Displays from Wellness Day Event

The Mayor's Office has asked Mrs. LaGreca what is being done with the recycling barrels used during the Mayor's Wellness Day event. Mr. Wolf said he will find out if we can ask DPW to move the barrels to MEVO.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:44 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Marcus; seconded by Mr. Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms  
Secretary