

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 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
Karin LaGreca
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Michael Devaney
Richard Reilly
Carol Phiefer
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on May 24, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. LaGreca abstained. All other members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Quality Report

Ariemma noted the 2017 Water Quality Report for Mahwah was distributed. Members discussed the eight areas of failure noted in the report. Members agreed they would like to get more information from the Water Department on two of these areas of concern. Storms will request the information.

Rain Garden Update

LaGreca met with two representatives from Rutgers Cooperative Extension. They will prepare a plan and budget, but we still need the site survey to move forward. LaGreca will request the information from the Planning Department. Members discussed the timeline for the development of the rain garden as well as other ideas for the project. Wolf said he would like to get on the Council's agenda as soon as possible so we can present the plan for approval. We would like to have the rain garden completed by the end of August in time for a grand opening at Mahwah Day in September.

Wolf said because we did not receive the ANJEC grant to support the Robotics Team Clean Water Initiative, he would like to consider utilizing one of their tests in the Rain Garden to monitor the results before and after. Wolf made a motion to support the initiative for up to \$1,000 through our Rain Garden funding; seconded by Seibert. All members were in favor. Wolf will follow up with the contact for the initiative. He noted

the students will need to have their testing equipment ready when the Rain Garden is unveiled in September, and then test it again a year later.

Former Abex Property – 65 Ramapo Valley Road

At our last meeting, Commission members requested we ask the Health Department what the company was originally required to do for the site remediation in the 1980s. Wolf asked for an update. Storms requested the information but there is no update yet.

Sustainable Jersey

LaGreca distributed a handout for our recertification and discussed some of the things on which we need to move forward. LaGreca noted the amount of work required to complete the recertification and asked if we want to get recertified this year. Wolf made a motion to commit to achieve Bronze level certification and push for Silver by June 2018; seconded by Seibert. All members were in favor. Wolf said we will discuss responsibilities at our next few meetings.

Municipal Tree Ordinance Changes

Ariemma said she has noted with the town's Ordinance Committee our desire to make changes to the municipal tree ordinance. Members discussed the importance of the municipal tree ordinance changes we are proposing, as well as educating the community on the importance of tree preservation.

Wellhead Ordinance Proposal

Wolf asked Ariemma for an update on the Ordinance Committee's review of the Wellhead Ordinance Proposal. Ariemma said it was approved by the Council at its last meeting. Members discussed the importance of limiting development around wellheads.

Open Space Resolution

At our last meeting, a representative from the NJ Highlands Coalition presented an Open Space Resolution that calls for the ongoing support of sustainable open space, farmland, historic preservation and stewardship funding for New Jersey. Wolf submitted the resolution to Town Council in anticipation of June being designated Open Space Month in New Jersey. The resolution was adopted on June 8, 2017. Storms will send a copy of the resolution to the Highlands Coalition representative.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Stuart & Amy Roberts, 5 Aronow Place, Block 126, Lot 126.02, E-BD-216-304-632

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

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

Barn Village, Inc. (QuickChek Corporation), 280-290 State Highway 17, Block 136, Lots 5.01 & 5.02, Dkt. #1411-16(s)

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Application and Tree Preservation Application for a proposed 5,496 square foot food store with indoor and outdoor seating. The Tree Preservation Application indicates 13 trees will be removed and replaced with 3.25 or 3 trees (13 trees x 25%).

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please note the Tree Replacement Plan (Sheet Number C-01) indicates that 17 trees greater than 12 inches are to be removed, however there are only 15 trees shown on the diagram. The Tree Preservation Application indicates there are 13 trees greater than 12 inches to be removed. Please have the applicant clarify the numbers of trees to be removed. If removing 17 trees, five trees must be replaced. If removing 15, four must be replaced. If removing 13, four must be replaced.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Quick Mart, 190 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lot 18, TA17-0031

Convenience Store – Change of Ownership

3rd Party Logistics Group, Inc., 31 Industrial Avenue, Block 102, Lot 32, TA17-0032

Warehousing – Additional Space

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Membership Renewal letter from ANJEC
- Letter regarding 76 Stag Hill Road's application for a Freshwater Wetlands Protections Act permit
- Copy of a letter from Boswell Engineering regarding QuickChek Corporation's Soil Movement Permit Application
- Copy of a letter from Boswell Engineering regarding 37 Bayberry Drive's Soil Movement Permit Application and Plot Plan Review
- Copy of an application for letter of interpretation from ETI Environmental Consultants regarding 70 Peterson Place
- Copy of a letter regarding Peterson Place, LLC's application for a permit or approval under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act
- Copy of a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit for 64 Ramapo Valley Road
- Brochure from Board of Tree Experts entitled "NJ Tree Expert Law"
- Environmental Policy Guide from the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS**ANJEC Handout**

Seibert distributed an ANJEC handout that discussed combined sewer overflows. While this is not an issue that pertains to Mahwah directly, there was some interesting information about rain gardens and green infrastructure practices.

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.

Tree Removal

Wolf gave notice to the Commission that he will be removing three trees from his personal property. Two of the trees are diseased pear trees that are not responding to treatment, and there is one crab apple tree that is rubbing up against the house. Although approval is not required, Wolf just wanted to notify members of his plans.

Tree Removal on NY Property Bordering Mahwah Property

Tom Mulvey forwarded a call from an attorney who represents a convent in Sloatsburg with land that borders Mahwah on seven acres. The attorney is a natural resource protector and has been hired to mark the timber for basic improvement cuts. Members discussed the tree removal approval process that we would recommend for the project. Storms will follow up with the attorney.

Tree Cutting Updates

At our last meeting, Wolf asked Storms to request an update on recent projects where clear-cutting has occurred. Mike Kelly gave updates on several properties including 635 Campgaw Road, Avenue A and Second Street, 125 Deerhaven, Apple Ridge and 341 LandCorp.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:14 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Wolf. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary