

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:40 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

Eric Fuchs-Stengel, MEVO
Allie Grinkevich, MEVO
Rachel Laub, MEVO/Ramapo College
Isabel Arrieche, MEVO
Angela Capalbo, MEVO
Van Trat, MEVO/Ramapo College

Absent: Carol Phiefer
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on June 14, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Wolf. Reilly abstained. All other members were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of the MEVO Earth Crew Initiative – Stag Hill Research

LaGreca introduced the MEVO Earth Crew and Ramapo College students for a presentation regarding the team's research on Stag Hill. The presentation highlighted the illegal dumping and off-roading on Stag Hill. The project included a study of the various dump sites and studied the ecological impact of off-road vehicles on the mountain. The team has compiled a map of the major dump sites on Stag Hill and is continuing to map, identify, clean, restore and secure the area so people cannot continue dumping. The team estimates that at least 10 more years of clean-up remain and plans to start soil and water testing over the summer.

Wolf said he would like to help the team prepare a formal proposal to submit to Town Council. All members were in favor of co-authoring the proposal with MEVO. The group discussed some ideas including community education, stricter enforcement of the area and new ordinances.

Wolf also recommended that we highlight “Pollution in the Highlands” at Mahwah Day on September 23. All members were in favor. Commission and MEVO team members will reconvene at upcoming Commission meetings on July 26, August 23 and September 13 to discuss the ongoing work.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Ravender Wadhwa, 20 Blueberry Court, Block 156, Lot 50.05, E-BD-304-633

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

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please have the applicant indicate whether the soil cut will be exported or re-filled.

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

George & Corine Gebhardt, 84 Youngs Road, Block 156, Lot 12, E-BD-216-3000

The Environmental Commission reviewed Soil Movement and Tree Preservation Applications for additions to the existing dwelling.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Nasamena, LLC, 190 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lots 18 & 19, TA17-0034

Allstate Insurance Company – office

Donato D’Angelo, 9-15 Miller Road, Block 71, Lot 16, TA17-0035

Office – property owner

Specialty Accessory Sales, 1 Lethbridge Plaza, Suite 4, Block 63, Lot 6, TA17-0036

Promotional products

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email regarding Mahwah High School’s donation of bat houses for conservation; Storms will follow up for more details.
- The Shade Tree Bi-Monthly Bulletin, Volume 90, Issues 5 & 6, May/June 2017
- Copy of an application submitted by PSE&G for a permit to the NJDEP under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act

- Request dated June 22, 2017 for Access to Government Records regarding Apple Ridge
- Email from the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) regarding sustainable purchasing goals
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

OLD BUSINESS

Apple Ridge Saddle River Update

Seibert said he met with Paul Scherer, Superintendent of Water/Sewer and asked about the sewers and new pump station planned for Apple Ridge. Wolf said the concern is that we may have accepted something we do not have the capacity to handle.

Betsy Ross School Issue

Seibert said he is aware of an issue with drugs being sold near Betsy Ross School property. There have been several recent arrests in the area.

Rain Garden Update

Wolf is waiting for a response from the student involved with the Robotics Team Clean Water Initiative to find out if they would like to utilize one of their tests in the new Rain Garden. At our last meeting, 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. 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.

Sustainable Jersey

LaGreca distributed a handout for our recertification and discussed some of the things on which we need to move forward. Wolf said we should set aside time to discuss updates on the second Wednesday of each month. Wolf said we are attempting to achieve Silver level certification by June 2018.

Mahwah Green Team Updates

The Mayor's Office asked for an updated roster of the Mahwah Green Team. Storms will follow up and provide an updated list.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:16 p.m. following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Devaney. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary