

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma  
Michael Devaney (arrived 8:22 p.m.)  
Karin LaGreca  
Carol Phiefer  
Richard Reilly  
Richard Seibert  
Richard Wolf

Bill Laforet, Mayor  
Quentin Wiest, Business Administrator  
Paul Scherer, Mahwah Water Dept. Superintendent  
Joe Jasinski, Suez Water

Susan Steinberg, 96 Armour Road, Town Council Candidate  
Vicky Galow, 68 Armour Road, Town Council Candidate  
Michael Galow, 68 Armour Road

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on July 26, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

Suez Water Pump Maintenance Presentation

Wolf introduced Joe Jasinski, Water System Consultant for Suez, for a presentation regarding Water Well Service-Rehabilitation and Asset Management. Jasinski discussed the importance of and challenges to maintaining water wells, preserving valuable natural resources, and the value of a tank program to Mahwah. He said Mahwah currently has seven wells that supply about 70 percent of the township's water.

Jasinski highlighted the challenges of plugging formation; which is mineralogical, bacteriological and mechanical deposition. He explained the process Suez uses to maintain the wells and keep them in good condition. Suez would then guarantee the performance of the wells. He explained the advantages over performing periodic maintenance versus running to failure.

The technology Suez uses is called Aqua Freed, which injects CO<sup>2</sup> in a gaseous state to evacuate water. Jasinski said Aqua Freed is the one of the most “green” technologies available. The annual well maintenance program includes the placement of energy injection equipment permanently installed with pumps in place. This maximizes and preserves natural resources, maintains the well and the formation, limits contamination of the aquifer. Scheduled cleanings of the formation controls bacteria, which in turn improves water quality and consistency.

Commission members and members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions. Resident Susan Steinberg asked if Suez knows if any of our wells have irreversible damage. LaGreca asked what the timeframe would be for well rehabilitation. Jasinski said all our wells are currently performing well, and he discussed the costs and timeframe.

Mayor Laforet and Township Administrator Wiest briefly discussed the benefits of establishing a contract for well maintenance. Mayor Laforet commended Wiest for spearheading this proposal. He said it is important to learn more about the quality of our water.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **37 Bayberry Drive – Update**

At its May 24, 2017 meeting, the Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Application and Tree Preservation Application for the construction of a single-family home. The original application indicated the applicant would like to remove six trees and make zero replacements. LaGreca recently went past the property and noticed a lot of trees marked with orange ties. Storms checked with the Planning Department and was told an amended plan was approved at the Planning Board’s June 12, 2017 meeting. With the amended plan, the applicant was approved to remove seven trees and plant two replacements.

Members reviewed the amended plan and agreed that it appears many more than seven trees were removed from the property. Wolf proposed asking the Planning Department to perform a site visit to determine the extent of the clear-cutting and any possible violations. We would also like to have the architect confirm the trees on the survey. Devaney also suggested we ask the Planning Department what the requirements are for trees to be included on a site survey.

Wolf asked if any of the members would like to review our proposed changes to the town’s tree ordinance. Devaney volunteered to look at the draft changes.

#### **MEVO Stag Hill Update**

Wolf reminded members that MEVO will be at our August 23 meeting to provide an update on their presentation regarding dumping on Stag Hill. Members discussed the importance of MEVO’s efforts.

#### **Mahwah Day Update**

Members briefly discussed our displays for Mahwah Day on September 23.

#### Rain Garden Update

Wolf is presenting the plan at tomorrow's Town Council meeting. Wolf provided a recap for those who were not present at our last meeting, when Tobiah Horton from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension presented an initial concept plan for the rain garden. Horton discussed the overall layout of the concept design as well as the amount of plants and stones he estimates we will need. Members discussed the timeline for the creation of the rain garden. Horton said he would also put together a maintenance plan. Wolf said we are expecting to host a grand opening for the rain garden at Mahwah Day on September 23.

#### Sustainable Jersey Recertification

LaGreca asked for updates from the members on our Sustainable Jersey efforts. Seibert is handling recycling pails and well maintenance. Reilly is handling the site plan database with Storms. Members discussed the various priorities each individual will handle.

#### **SITE PLAN REVIEWS**

*None received*

#### **SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Atheeb Khateeb, 77 Malcolm Drive, Block 96, Lot 29, E-BD-216-3007

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Application for the digging of a 10' x 22' basement and garage.

*Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:*

Please provide clarification on the following:

- The application states the work proposed is for a basement and garage, however the plans show a two-story addition.
- Please also clarify the amount of soil being cut.
- There is no grading shown on the plan.
- There is no tree removal application attached, however neighbors stated trees were removed.

The application was rejected until further information is provided.

#### **TENANT APPLICATIONS**

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

American Musical Supply, Inc., 70-81 McKee Drive, Block 65, Lot 3, TA17-0037

*Musical instrument distributor*

*Comments:*

Please confirm application meant to state "no" toxins or chemicals.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from Fardale resident regarding the use of fireworks in town
- Copy of a letter from EcolSciences, Inc. regarding an Area of Concern Unrestricted Use Reponse Action Outcome at the former Apple Ridge Country Club
- Email from the Project Management Academy regarding a Project Management Master Certification Course offered through Rutgers University
- Email newsletter from the NY-NJ Trail Conference
- Email regarding Satellite Office Passport Outreach Services offered by Bergen County in Mahwah on August 15, 16 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Copy of a letter from the NJ DEP regarding Flood Hazard Area Verification Approval for Block 130, Lot 1
- Email from CDP Cities regarding October 25 Workshop
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Orange & Rockland Tree Trimming**

Ariemma said she was asked by a resident of Brook Avenue who raised concerns regarding Orange & Rockland using chemicals to treat the trees on the utility's property. This was discussed at our last meeting in response to an email the Environmental Commission received from a resident regarding tree trimming in a flood zone on his property. Wolf spoke to the town and was told this is out of our jurisdiction. He said he will follow up with the resident and try to get more information.

### **Invasive Species – Lake Henry**

Susan Steinberg said she was told there are a number of invasive species around Lake Henry. She asked if there was anything being done with this.

### **Ramsey Gun Range**

Steinberg said she was approached by a resident concerned the new gun range in Ramsey could potentially have an impact on our air quality.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:01 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Reilly. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms  
Secretary