

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018**

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
Carol Phiefer
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Karin LaGreca
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on July 25, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Devaney. All other members were in favor.

The minutes of the meeting held on August 8, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Devaney. All other members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Arborist/Tree Preservation & Maintenance Update

Arborist Kris Hasbrouck gave an update on his work. He said he conducted a windshield survey around town to observe the condition of Mahwah's trees. Hasbrouck said he observed a lot of limbs in the roadways. He noted the Fardale section may be the worst because many of the trees in the neighborhood have not been pruned appropriately over the years. Hasbrouck said this is a major problem that will need to be dealt with at some point in the future. Ariemma noted her concerns that this may lead to cutting down too many trees all over town. Hasbrouck said a Community Forestry Management Plan would address her concerns.

Our next step is to apply for the Green Communities Grant to support the development of a Community Forestry Management Plan. Members discussed the application with Hasbrouck. We will apply for a \$3,000 matching grant, for a project total of \$6,000. Wolf made a motion to complete the application and submit it to the town council for approval. All members were in favor.

Sustainable Jersey Update

Wolf went through some items with LaGreca. He said we still need to complete some issues for our renewable energy credits. Wolf said we need to resubmit any open issues by September 9.

Newsletter Submissions

Wolf said our submissions for the Fall newsletter were submitted. Topics included the artificial floating island, recycling giveaway, tree giveaway and the recent Water Forum.

Rain Garden Water Fowl Issue

Seibert said he has observed multiple people feeding geese at the Rain Garden. Wolf said the “Do Not Feed Water Fowl” sign that we recently purchased will be posted soon. This may somewhat alleviate the problem.

Artificial Floating Island Update

Seibert said he saw resident Tom McKeon recently, and McKeon said he plans to perform some maintenance on the island soon.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

244 Forest Road Mahwah LLC, 244 Forest Road, Block 160, Lot 18, E-BD-216-3073

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application for a new single-family home on the property. The Tree Preservation Application indicates seven trees will be removed, with zero replacements.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please have the applicant clarify the soil movement on the property. The figures noted on the application do not add up. Please also note that if removing seven trees from the property, a minimum of two replacement trees are required as per the township ordinance.

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

Guirgius Boctor, 40 Cortlandt Trail, Block 120.01, Lot 19, E-BD-216-304-655

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application for the installation of a new in-ground pool and accessory structure on the property.

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

John Cheman, 76 Stag Hill Road, Block 2, Lot 62, Docket #1433-18(S)

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application for a new single-family home and free-standing garage on the property. The Tree Preservation Application indicates 16 trees will be removed, with five replacements.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please have the applicant clarify the soil movement on the property. The figures noted on the application do not add up.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

None received

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of a letter from Boswell Engineering regarding 11 Harvin Place, Block 167, Lot 62
- Email newsletters from the Hackensack Riverkeeper and NY-NJ Trail Conference regarding upcoming events
- Hackensack Tidelines, Summer 2018 Issue
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Property Issue – 29 Karen Drive

Tom Mulvey brought an issue to the Commission's attention regarding 29 Karen Drive. The homeowner appears to have cleared a large portion of the lot. Mulvey and Glenn Dowson spoke to the homeowner to let them know they were not permitted to remove the trees/vegetation, which were on township property and served as a buffer to the pond. The homeowner was told to grade the area out and return it to the way it was.

Wolf made a motion to ask Mulvey to survey the property and find out how many trees were removed, both on the homeowner's property and the town's property. We recommend the homeowner should receive a formal citation for each qualified tree that was removed on the homeowner's property. For the removals that occurred on the town's property, we believe this is a criminal offense. The homeowner should also submit a formal plan as to how they are going to restore the property to its previous condition. All members were in favor of this action.

Mahwah Day

Mahwah Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2018. Wolf will follow up with Glenn Dowson to make sure we have everything we need for our booth.

Information Article – "Sayegh reviving Paterson's environmental commission"

Seibert distributed an informational article that recently appeared in the Record regarding the city of Paterson reviving the city's environmental commission as part of an effort to increase recycling.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary