

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:41 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Michael Devaney
Karin LaGreca
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Carol Phiefer
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on August 22, 2018 were approved as submitted following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. LaGreca abstained. All other members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Artificial Floating Island Update

Resident Tom McKeon, 70 Malcolm Road, gave an update on the status of the Artificial Floating Island at Winter's Park and distributed draft signage for members to review. Members discussed. McKeon will prepare and distribute for review.

Rain Garden Update

Wolf conducted some research regarding purchasing an interactive outdoor double-sided display totem near the rain garden. The electronic totem could highlight the rain garden, as well as provide commuters and residents with other relevant information. Wolf asked whether members would be interested in pursuing this concept. Ariemma noted her concerns with the security of such an item, given the recent vandalism of the original rain garden sign and the recent mail thefts at the post office. She suggested installing cameras around the area. McKeon volunteered to follow up with the company to learn more about our options.

LaGreca said Phase Two of the rain garden pit begins on September 24. She will organize the project with DPW. Members discussed the timeline and plants being installed.

LaGreca also proposed creating a new rain garden sign for educational purposes. She received a proposal for an 18x24-inch sign. She also said the new "Do Not Feed Waterfowl" sign is up and looks good.

Sustainable Jersey Update

LaGreca and Wolf gave an update of the status of our Sustainable Jersey certification. LaGreca said the Sustainable Jersey luncheon will be held in Atlantic City during the annual League of Municipalities Conference. If any members are interested in attending please see LaGreca for more information.

Mahwah Day

LaGreca picked up the compost bin we ordered from the Bergen County Utilities Authority. We will raffle it off at Mahwah Day. Wolf spoke to DPW and we only have 300 bags left to give out during Mahwah Day, unless we want to rush an order through in time for Mahwah Day. Members agreed to wait until next year to print new bags.

Tree Preservation & Maintenance Update

Wolf completed our grant application for the Green Communities Grant to support the development of a Community Forestry Management Plan. 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.

Rockland Electric Tree Pruning

Ariemma noted her concerns regarding Rockland Electric's tree pruning schedule. She said it appears as though the utility company is cutting back trees too far from utility wires. Wolf suggested that Ariemma take photos of the areas in concern, and we can send them to the utility company representative for feedback.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Glamour Pets Boutique, LLC, 190 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lots 18 & 19, Docket #1446-18

The Environmental Commission received a Board of Adjustment Application for a proposed pet grooming facility.

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

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

M&M Gonzales, 62 Chapel Road, Block 156, Lot 36, E-BD-216-3088

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit application for a garage and driveway

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Global Fresh Produce, Inc., 65 Ramapo Valley Road, Suite 219, Block 41, Lot 1, TA18-0030

Sales and import – office space only

Recon Construction, 67 Ramapo Valley Road, Suite 204, Block 41, Lot 1, TA18-0031

Construction – office space only

Cornerstone Dental of Mahwah, 21 Franklin Turnpike, Suite 2119, Block 69, Lot 1, TA18-0032

Dentistry Office

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of a letter from the NJDEP regarding a subdivision to create a building lot for the construction of a single-family dwelling at 28 Turner Lake Drive
- Flyer regarding MEVO's Annual Fresh Roots Farm Feast on Saturday, October 6
- Email regarding the BUILD 2018 Recycling & Waste Management Awards
- Email newsletters from the Hackensack Riverkeeper and NY-NJ Trail Conference regarding upcoming events
- Flyer from Bergen County regarding an annual application workshop for community development block grants
- Copy of a letter from DEP regarding public notification and outreach for remedial activities at 280 Route 17 South
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

OLD BUSINESS, continued

Property Issue – 29 Karen Drive

On August 21, Tom Mulvey brought an issue to the Commission's attention regarding 29 Karen Drive, where the homeowner 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.

On August 22, the Commission requested that Mulvey survey the property to find out how many trees were removed from the property. We recommended the homeowner should receive a formal citation for each qualified tree that was removed on the homeowner's property. We also asked that the homeowner submit a formal plan as to how they are going to restore the property to its previous condition. Mulvey responded that the town has 30 days in which to sign summons and complaints. He requested that Mike Kelly review any remediation plans and assess any long-lasting damage to the buffer on the property.

At its meeting tonight, members asked for an update on this and discussed their concerns if the ordinance is not enforced. Storms will follow up to see if Mr. Kelly has any updates.

NEW BUSINESS

3 Willow Bank Court – Constituent Call

The Environmental Commission received a call from a resident at 3 Willow Bank Court regarding a creek on the property that needs to be cleaned out. Storms sent the request to Glenn Dowson, who said DPW will go out to the property and see what can be done.

Informational Articles

Seibert distributed two letters to the editor that recently appeared in the Record regarding supporting a ban on plastic bags and the state of the town's roads.

Mahwah Earth Action Day

LaGreca said Mahwah's Earth Action Day is scheduled for October 20, 2018. There will be four locations for cleanups. The locations have not yet been determined.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:56 p.m. following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary