

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Michael Devaney
Karin LaGreca
Carol Phiefer
Richard Reilly
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

Ryan Martens, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Gregory Schutz, 14 Skytop Drive
Andrew Banta, 25 Stone Fence Road
Robert & Kim Condatore, 6 Skytop Drive
Megan Charles, 10 Skytop Drive

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

The minutes of the meeting held on September 13, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Rain Garden Update

LaGreca introduced Ryan Martens, who gave an overview of the status of the rain garden. He highlighted the process of caring for the rain garden to establish the plants during the first year. Members discussed the next phase of the rain garden for irrigation and landscaping. LaGreca thanked everyone for their work on the rain garden so far. Resident Megan Charles applauded the effort and said the area looks wonderful.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Wolf welcomed the residents in attendance to discuss the Zoning Board Application for 16 Skytop Drive.

Sean Royle, 16 Skytop Drive, Block 154, Lot 17, Docket #1413-16

The Environmental Commission received a Board of Adjustment Application to construct a single-family home on currently undeveloped land. Several residents attended the Commission's September 13 meeting to oppose the application. However, the Commission had not received the application as of September 13.

Residents were in attendance again tonight to discuss the plan, which the Commission has since received. Residents expressed their concerns over the application, particularly the fact that trees will be removed from the neighbors' properties, that the proposed road will cut through the backyards of several residents' homes, and that the property has been designated a groundwater recharge area. Wildlife impact is also a significant concern.

Wolf said we can only take the group's environmental concerns into consideration. He suggested we recommend that this plan is not in accordance with the goals of the town's Master Plan. LaGreca and Phiefer plan to walk the property on October 10, the day before our next meeting.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

- This plan does not appear to be in accordance with the goals of the town's Master Plan, which is not in favor of landlocked properties.
- Related to tree removal, soil movement and impervious coverage: does this include figures for the neighbors' right of way?
- How will this plan impact the groundwater recharge area, the wildlife in the area, or the overall quality of life in the neighborhood?

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

OLD BUSINESS, continued

Mahwah Day Update

Members discussed the outcome of Mahwah Day. Wolf said the water bottles were very popular and the day was a success. MEVO also received good visibility at the event.

Water Quality Forum

Wolf said he would like to continue working toward hosting a public Water Quality Forum for residents. Members discussed finding an expert to speak at the forum to address residents' concerns and questions.

Well Maintenance Program

Seibert went through the Suez Water Pump Maintenance presentation and compiled comments. Wolf thanked Seibert for his thorough work. Members agreed to recommend that the town move forward with the proposal.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Boltz Street Corp., 23 Hopper Court, Block 169, Lot 17, E-BD-216-3011

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for the construction of a single-family home. There is no attached Tree Preservation Application.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

The site plan shows 18-19 trees slated to be removed. Please have the applicant submit a Tree Preservation Application.

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

SLS Investment Group, LLC, 18 Mountain Avenue, Block 47, Lot 19, E-BD-216-3012

The Environmental Commission reviewed Soil Movement & Tree Preservation Applications for the construction of a single-family home with related improvements. The applicant plans to remove three trees and make one replacement (Red Maple).

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

Salma Ali, 34 Avenue A, Block 55, Lot 15, E-BD-216-3013

The Environmental Commission reviewed Soil Movement & Tree Preservation Applications for a two-story addition and driveway extension. There is no related tree removal.

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

Ken Woetzel, 17 Arbor Lane, Block 126, Lot 129.02, E-BD-216-3016

The Environmental Commission reviewed Soil Movement & Tree Preservation Applications for a proposed two-story home. There currently are 17 trees on the property. The applicant plans to remove three trees and plant four additional trees.

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

Frank & Jill Chicherchia, 91 Bridle Path Lane, Block 1, Lot 114, E-BD-216-3015

The Environmental Commission reviewed Soil Movement & Tree Preservation Applications for a new detached garage and driveway addition. There currently are 13 trees on the property, two of which the applicant plans to relocate.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

Zaloom Marketing Corp., 17 Franklin Turnpike – Suite 5, Block 61, Lot 1, TA17-0044
Office Space – Wholesale Snack and Seafood Industry

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Invitation from Boswell Engineering to attend a Gala Cocktail Reception on Wednesday, November 15, 2017
- Email from New York-New Jersey Trail Conference highlighting upcoming events
- Email from the Hackensack Riverkeeper regarding upcoming events
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Bank/Tree Cutting Issues

At our last meeting, Ariemma noted a situation where DPW workers cut down a lot of trees on Merrill Drive to install new sidewalks. Ariemma discussed the need for a plan to replant trees in neighborhoods once they are taken down. Wolf suggested filing for a grant to conduct a tree study in town, hiring an arborist out of our budget next year, and compiling a list of neighborhoods in need of trees. Seibert said he will meet with Glenn Dowson to discuss being included in DPW's future plans.

Glen Rock & Franklin Lakes Environmental Commissions

LaGreca was contacted by the Glen Rock Environmental Commission and asked if we would like to be a part of an initiative in their town to charge fees for plastic fees. Members agreed there is not enough support in town to do this right now. LaGreca was also approached by Franklin Lakes regarding our upcoming initiatives, and she mentioned our bike path concept. Franklin Lakes also has plans for a bike path in town; LaGreca suggested we collaborate with the other town.

Constituent Correspondence

Storms gave an update regarding two constituent calls the Environmental Commission recently received. The first was a resident on Locust Lane who smelled gas and oil near her property. The Mahwah Health Department and PSE&G have addressed the issue. No further action is necessary. The second issue was from a resident who came in to the Health Department with concerns about mulch spores on his car. Storms will locate the article for more information.

MEVO Farm Feast

LaGreca said MEVO is hosting its annual Farm Feast on Saturday, October 7. Tickets are available online. She said all are welcome to attend.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:07 p.m. following a motion by Phiefer; seconded by Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary