

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Richard Reilly. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Michael Devaney
Karin LaGreca
Carol Phiefer
Richard Reilly
Richard Wolf (arrived 7:49 p.m.)

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Richard Seibert

Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on September 27, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by LaGreca; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Rain Garden Update

LaGreca gave an update on the status of the rain garden.

Sustainable Jersey Certification

LaGreca said we need to start focusing on our Sustainable Jersey recertification. She asked all members to continue working on their respective assignments.

Stag Hill “No Dumping/Littering” Signage

Ariemma said Mayor Laforet is working to put up “No Littering” signs around Stag Hill. She said she would like for the language to be stronger. Wolf said the language needs to be consistent with our town ordinances. He said he will follow up with the Mayor to discuss.

Mahwah High School Donation of Bat Houses

Over the summer, the town was approached regarding a donation of bat houses from the Mahwah High School Woodworking Club. We requested more information regarding placement and maintenance of the bat houses, and we were told they can be placed on existing structures or poles and visibly checked once a year. This week, the Commission received an email from the high school representative asking for an update. LaGreca said MEVO would like to take five for the MEVO farm. Storms will follow up.

Tree Bank/Tree Cutting Issues

At a recent meeting, Ariemma noted a situation where DPW workers cut down a lot of trees on Merrill Drive to install new sidewalks and discussed the need for a plan to replant trees in neighborhoods once they are taken down. She brought it up at the last council meeting, and was told that we have an arborist on staff. Wolf suggested we invite the arborist to our next meeting to coordinate our efforts. Ariemma will follow up.

LaGreca will also reach out to Rockland Electric to find out who is responsible for the company's tree pruning. Members would like to invite them to a future meeting to learn about the company's tree pruning schedule.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Prestige Pre-Owned, LLC, 7 Industrial Avenue, Block 110.02, Lot 1, Docket #1430-17

The Environmental Commission received a Board of Adjustment Application seeking a variance to permit the wholesale sale and purchase of pre-owned motor vehicles on the property. The present use of the premises is automobile preparation and maintenance; however sale of used automobiles is not currently permitted in a GI-80 zone.

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

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

WJA Associates, 185 Route 17, Block 53, Lots 18-21, Docket #1418-17S

The Environmental Commission reviewed Soil Movement Permit and Tree Preservation Applications for a proposed addition and parking lot on the property. The applicant would like to remove two trees and proposes to make 11 replacements.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please ensure the applicant tests the soil being imported.

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

Brian Severin, 30 Peterson Place, Block 139, Lot 24.01, E-BD-216-304-641

The Environmental Commission reviewed Soil Movement Permit Application for improvements including a pool, patio, cabana, fir pit, landscaping, drainage and fence.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

None received

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- The Shade Tree Bulletin, Volume 90, Sept.-Oct. 2017, Issues 9 & 10

- Newsletter of the Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah, Oct. 2017, Volume 5, Issue 10
- Email from New York-New Jersey Trail Conference highlighting upcoming events
- Invitation from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for the 3rd Annual Gala on October 19 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Invitation from the Hackensack Riverkeeper for the 20th Anniversary Celebration on October 19
- Email from the Ridgewood Shade Tree Commission
- Email from constituent regarding the town's upcoming shredding event
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

2018 Meeting Dates

Storms distributed a copy of the meeting dates for 2018.

Conference Attendance

LaGreca would like to attend two upcoming conferences as a representative of the Environmental Commission. Storms and Wolf will find out how to register her and get reimbursed.

Rain Garden Signage

LaGreca is working on signage for the rain garden. She asked if there are any records of who we used for the trail signage at Lake Henry. Storms and Wolf will follow up.

2018 Budget Preparation

Wolf said we need to discuss the proposed 2018 budget at our next meeting. Members briefly discussed potential priorities for the coming year.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:12 p.m. following a motion by Devaney; seconded by Reilly. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary