

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:36 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

Tom McKeon, Malcolm Road resident
Armine Arustamyan, 38 North Railroad Avenue

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Karin LaGreca
Richard Reilly

Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on October 25, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Devaney; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

Wolf welcomed resident Tom McKeon to the meeting. McKeon has expressed an interest in participating in some of our upcoming environmental initiatives.

OLD BUSINESS

Armine Arustamyan (Minor Subdivision), 38 North Railroad Avenue, Block 47, Lots 28, 29 & 31 (Docket #588)

At its last meeting on October 25, the Environmental Commission received a Planning Board Application Review Report for a minor subdivision on 38 North Railroad Avenue. Members rejected the application and requested that the applicant provide clarification on the proposed application. Arustamyan was in attendance at tonight's meeting to discuss the plans in greater detail.

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

Orange & Rockland Tree Removal Plans

Ariemma noted a situation on Alexandria Court where Orange & Rockland came in recently and cut down several trees along a transmission line, without providing any notice to residents. Several residents have expressed concerns regarding the tree

removals and run-off into the neighboring stream. Members discussed trying to coordinate any tree removal plans with Orange & Rockland. Wolf said we can contact Orange & Rockland to ask them what they plan to do with the property. Ariemma said there are also large tree stumps remaining on Route 202, which were also cut down by Orange & Rockland due to their proximity to power lines.

Wolf asked Storms to follow up with Quentin Wiest and Glenn Dowson to see if they can come to one of our meetings in January. We will also invite Orange & Rockland can attend.

Municipal Tree Ordinance

Phiefer said she received information from Franklin Lakes about the town's tree removal guidelines. Wolf said we have been waiting for input from Mike Kelly's office on our proposed changes to Mahwah's municipal tree ordinance. Devaney is coordinating with Kelly's office before the proposed changes are presented to the ordinance committee.

Skytop Drive Application

The Environmental Commission recently reviewed a Board of Adjustment Application to construct a single-family home on currently undeveloped land on Skytop Drive. A group of residents attended two prior meetings, during which they expressed 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. The Commission submitted these comments and concerns as part of its application review.

The Zoning Board began its review of the application at its Nov. 1 meeting. Devaney attended. He said the review is still ongoing and will be heard at another upcoming meeting.

2018 Budget Preparation

Wolf gave an update on the proposed 2018 budget, which Storms submitted on November 1.

Bike/Walk Path Study

Ariemma asked about the funding for a proposed Bike/Walk Path. Members discussed all the key players involved in the creation and maintenance of a new bike path.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

None received

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

Holy Cross Nursery School, 125 Glasgow Terrace, Block 135, Lot 2, TA17-0048
Church/nursery school

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Email from Finance Department regarding purchase order deadlines for 2017
- Email regarding upcoming tree seminar at the Ridgewood Library
- Email regarding a Professional Grant Development Workshop at Rutgers University
- Copy of a Response Action Outcome for 10 Industrial Avenue
- Copy of a Flood Hazard Area Verification Approval for Forest Road, Block 161, Lot 5
- Copy of a Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation: Line Delineation for N. Noelle Letcher Newhouse, 24 Osborne Court, Block 126, Lot 133
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Article – *Getting bad chemicals out of Jersey’s water*

Seibert distributed an informational article regarding two carcinogenic contaminants, PFOA and PFNA, which have become prevalent in New Jersey’s water.

Article – *The Computer That Could Rule the World*

Seibert distributed an informational article regarding the first fully operational quantum computer.

Well Maintenance Program

At our last meeting, Joe Jasinski, Water System Consultant for Suez, provided an update regarding the establishment of a proposed well maintenance program for Mahwah. Seibert and Wolf gave an update on our discussion of Suez’s guarantee of capacity.

Farm to Table Initiative

Ariemma said she read an article regarding an upcoming Farm to Table initiative that sounds very promising for the region.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Devaney. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
 Secretary