

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:47 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 Seibert
Richard Wolf

Tom McKeon, Malcolm Road Resident

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Richard Reilly
Ward Donigian, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on November 8, 2017 were approved as submitted following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

Floating Island Presentation

Wolf welcomed resident Tom McKeon to the meeting. McKeon presented on the concept of a partnership with local Boy Scout Troop 258 to create an Artificial Floating Island at Winters Pond. Troop 258 will donate the floating island. Ariemma said she will mention it at the next council meeting to see if we need formal council approval. Wolf made a motion to support the initiative; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor. We are planning to do this initiative sometime in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS

Member ID Cards

Storms said after tonight's meeting she hopes to take photographs of all the members for new identification cards.

Well Maintenance Program

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

2018 Meeting Dates

Storms distributed a copy of our 2018 Meeting Notice to North Jersey Media Group. The notice ran on November 9, 2017.

Tree Removals

Phiefer said she was notified of excessive tree removals at the Blue Hills development on Elizabeth Lane. Members discussed the importance of enforcing the town's municipal tree ordinance. Wolf said we have been waiting for input from Mike Kelly's office on our proposed changes to the ordinance. Ariemma said she would inquire about it at the next council meeting.

Orange & Rockland Tree Removal Plans

At a recent meeting, Ariemma noted a situation on Alexandria Court where Orange & Rockland cut down several trees along a transmission line without providing any notice to residents. Members discussed trying to coordinate any tree removal plans with Orange & Rockland. Wolf said he contacted Orange & Rockland to ask them what they plan to do with the property. He is waiting for a response.

Rain Garden Update

LaGreca gave an update on the status of the ongoing work on the Rain Garden.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Bolla Operating NJ Corp, 62 Franklin Turnpike, Block 68, Lots 14 & 14.01, Docket #587
The Environmental Commission received a Planning Board Application Review Report for a service station with convenience store.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

The application review was accepted with the following comments:

1. Please ensure a site visit was conducted to ensure the work was not already performed.
2. The Commission requests the owner installs an electric charging station on the property.

The application review was accepted subject to the above notes, following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. All were in favor.

Anna Jahn Trust, 16 Jahn Court, Block 152, Lot 69.01, Docket #585

The Environmental Commission received a Planning Board Application Review Report for a minor subdivision proposal for two single-family dwellings.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

The application review was rejected for the following reasons:

1. The subdivision creates a flag lot and potential easement for driveway access. The Master Plan advises against flag lots.
2. The plan appears to require a variance to the grading ordinance, which we object to because the property appears flat according to the site plan.

The application review was rejected subject to the above notes, following a motion made by Wolf; seconded by Phiefer. All were in favor.

Daniel J. Barteluca, 179 Island Road, Block 61, Lots 55 & 56, Docket #579

The Environmental Commission received a Planning Board Application Review Report for a minor subdivision proposal for two equal sized parcels.

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

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Hind Kesilyas, 217 Airmount Road, Block 101, Lot 6, Docket #1429-17(S)

The Environmental Commission received Soil Movement and Tree Preservation Applications for the excavation of the property for a new single-family residence. There are 16 trees on the property. The applicant plans to remove four of the trees and make four replacements.

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

Brian & Nancy Smith, 37 Jacobean Way, Block 21.01, Lot 4, E-BD-216-3037

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Application for a new patio and walkway.

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

Pawan Vaswani, 124 Lawrence Road, Block 73, Lot 20.02, E-BD-216-3032

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application for a new home on the property.

Comments to Administrative Officer and Township Engineer:

Please have the applicant clarify the figures listed under “Description of Soil to be Moved.” Application should state fill of 222 cubic yards.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

SC Pharmaceuticals, 200 Route 17 South, Suite 116, Block 132, Lot 11, TA17-0049

Pharmaceuticals – administrative office

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from the Passaic River Coalition regarding water management initiatives.
- League of Conservation Voters Environmental Agenda ‘18

- Letter from Weissman Engineering Co. regarding notification that Peterson Place, LLC is applying to the NJDEP to construct a sanitary sewer extension at Lot 50.05 on Block 139 on 70 Peterson Place.
- NY-NJ Trail Conference E-Walker News for December 4, 2017
- Newsletter of the Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah, December 2017
- Email from the Hackensack Riverkeeper regarding upcoming events
- Email from the NY-NJ Trail Conference regarding upcoming events
- Email from the Hackensack Riverkeeper regarding Giving Tuesday
- Email from the New Jersey Chambers Events and Networking
- NY-NJ Trail Conference E-Walker News for November 17, 2017
- Email from the Hackensack Riverkeeper regarding upcoming events
- Letter from the NJDEP regarding a ground water remedial action permit-modification for 389 Route 17 North
- Newsletter of the Joyce Kilmer Society of Mahwah, November 2017
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Tree Ordinance

Members discussed the importance of establishing more stringent tree removal guidelines. Wolf will follow up with the ordinance committee. We would also have more oversight over the removal of trees throughout town.

Email Regarding Battery Disposal

We received an email from a resident who took her small batteries to the recycling center and was told that they no longer dispose of those batteries. The resident would like to know if any other options are available to her. At this time, we are unaware of any other recycling programs. If you know of any and would like to make any suggestions, we are open to suggestions. Storms will respond to the resident.

2018 Water Quality Summit

Wolf said he is still trying to set a date for a 2018 Water Summit. He said he would like to propose doing something in the spring. Main topics will be water quality, conservation, and a well maintenance program.

Mahwah Action Day – April 21

LaGreca said MEVO and Mahwah DPW are hosting a cleanup around town on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:25 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Wolf. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey.

J. Storms
Secretary