

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021**

The remote meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Richard Wolf, Chair
 Janet Ariemma, Council Liaison
 Carol Phiefer
 Jack Pfister
 Richard Seibert, Co-Chair
 Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Frank Pallotta, Planning Board Liaison

Seibert made a motion to open the meeting to the public; seconded by Pfister. All in favor.

OPEN SESSION

DPW Micik Lane Site

Laurie Mennella, 32 Wanamaker Avenue, attended the recent site visit at the location of the new DPW facility with Pallotta and Ariemma. She is a 20-year resident of Mahwah, and is concerned that her backyard is going to be facing the proposed salt shed. She said the residents have not been included in the plans for the property and is concerned about the lack of transparency for the plans.

Ariemma said she would like to ask the town to preserve some of the land with Green Acres funding. Wolf said the town already owns the land, so we would not need Green Acres funding to purchase that land. Ariemma recommended we ask the town to dedicate a portion of the property as open space. She noted the town is planning to redirect the brook and take down many trees on the site. She said there are also many animals on the wooded property and is concerned the wildlife may be affected.

Pfister said that we, as a Commission, need to determine what our recommendations to the town would be.

Mennella said she is also concerned there are a lot of environmental issues on the site.

Pfister made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Seibert. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

DPW Micik Lane Site

Pallotta was not able to attend tonight's meeting. We will defer further discussion of this issue until the next meeting.

Sustainable Jersey Certification Updates

Wolf said he has asked Karin LaGreca to attend our next meeting to give a status report. He also said he plans to request another meeting with the Business Administrator to discuss out ongoing Sustainable Jersey efforts.

Commission Vacancies

Ariemma asked if we had heard back about our vacant commission position. Wolf said he will reach out to the mayor for a status update.

Tree Recovery Campaign – April 24, 2021

Wolf said he has not heard back from the state on purchasing trees for our annual tree giveaway, so we will need to purchase the trees ourselves. Wolf said he would like to reach out to Pinelands Nursery, who is already an established vendor, to order 500 seedlings.

Tree Planting Plan

Ariemma asked if we have a tree plan in place, so that we can coordinate our future tree plantings with the DPW and the Beautification Committee. Ariemma will reach out to Phiefer sometime this week to discuss.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Fyke Brook Estates, LLC, 1 Fyke Road, Block 21, Lots 21, 22 & 23

The Environmental Commission received a Planning Board Application Review Report for a preliminary and final major site plan with soil movement permit application.

This application review was deferred to the next meeting following a motion made by Pfister; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Apple Ridge Association, Apple Ridge Boulevard/East Crescent Avenue, Block 126, Lot 114, E-BD-214-3336

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a pond dredging on the property.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

Please have the applicant provide an explanation as to what is being done with the soil on the property.

This application review was deferred subject to the above comments, following a motion made by Pfister; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

Henry A. Scheyer III, 107 Armour Road, Block 106, Lot 13, E-BD-216-3337

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for the construction of a backyard patio, retaining walls, front yard seepage pits, and removal of a portion of the driveway on the property.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

Please have the applicant clarify where the soil will be exported. This approval is contingent on the applicant providing the destination of the exported 34 cubic yards of soil.

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

Karl & Jamie Kreshpane, 100 Stabled Way, Block 1, Lot 152.06, E-BD-216-3339
The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application to fill uneven spots and holes in a paddock on the property.

This application review was accepted following a motion made by Seibert; seconded by Pfister. All other members were in favor.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Deals on Wheels, 65 Ramapo Valley Road, Suite 101, TA21-0009
Car leasing

Lauren Murray Law Offices, 45 Whitney Road, Block 173, Lot 147, TA21-0010
Attorney

Creative Services, 45 Whitney Road, Block 173, Lot 147, TA21-0011
Service

Bergen County Charity Classic, 1 Lethbridge Plaza, Suite 16A, Block 63, Lot 6, TA21-0012
Volunteer charitable organization

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from Schwanewede/Hals Engineering regarding a proposed pond dredging at 400 Apple Ridge Boulevard
- Copy of a letter from the State DEP regarding a Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation for DPW Property, Block 58, Lots 29, 30, 31 & 38
- Various copies of letters, agendas and minutes
- Emails regarding recent and upcoming events

OPEN SESSION

Seibert made a motion to reopen the meeting to the public; Phiefer seconded. All approved.

Further Discussion - DPW Micik Lane Proposal

Seibert asked if a hydrologist had been hired to study the waterflow on the site.

Deals on Wheels Tenant Application

Resident Mennella noted Deals on Wheels used to be a former client of hers in Nanuet. She said they stored cars on their former property. Wolf said we will check the application and ask if they plan to store cars on this property.

Micik Lane Proposal – Further Discussion

Mennella said she would still like to hear what Pallotta has to say about the DPW site. She compiled a list of questions Pallotta was going to present to Mike Kelly. We will discuss again at our next meeting.

Seibert made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Pfister. All in favor.

There being no further questions or discussion, the remote meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Seibert. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary