

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021**

The remote meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Richard Wolf, Chair
 Janet Ariemma, Council Liaison
 Frank Pallotta, Planning Board Liaison (*joined call at 7:21 p.m.*)
 Carol Phiefer
 Jack Pfister
 Richard Seibert, Co-Chair
 Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent:

The minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2021 were approved following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Phiefer. All other present members were in favor.

Sustainable Jersey

Karin LaGreca gave an update on our Sustainable Jersey status and discussed possible future topics and ideas for the commission, including public awareness programs regarding the invasive Spotted Lanternfly. The deadline for our first certification submission is June 6, 2021.

PUBLIC SESSION

DPW Micik Lane Site

Pallotta gave an update on his site visit with Janet Ariemma a few weeks ago. He discussed the location of the salt shed. He has confirmed with the business administrator that any additional runoff from the salt shed will be mitigated with additional curbing. The retention pond - located at the bottom back of the property - is designed to alleviate any flooding that has happened previously around that area.

With regard to soil testing, a second set of tests were completed. The town just received those results and any additional soil remediation necessary will be done. The Army Corps of Engineers will redirect the stream.

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

Lori Mennella, 32 Wanamaker Avenue, thanked Pallotta for looking into everything for the residents. However, she said she is still confused by the location of the salt shed. She asked if the location of the salt shed changed at a certain point. She also said she has never seen any flooding in the back of the property. She is also still concerned about the trees and plants dying on the property because of earlier soil contamination. Pallotta said the

soil tests did not show a large amount of soil contamination, so he is comfortable with the results of the testing.

Martha Steinbach said she is also still concerned about the plans. She asked what kind of pond is being built on the property – detention or retention pond – because it appears as though the purpose of the pond has changed. Pallotta said he will get her the exact answer. Steinbach asked how the residents can keep up with all of the changes being made to the plans.

Regarding the rerouting of the stream, Steinbach said the residents are still concerned about the contamination on the property. She said she would rather have fresh soil brought in to fill in the brook, rather than potentially contaminated soil.

Tim Fernandez, 30 Wanamaker Avenue, thanked Pallotta and Ariemma for walking the property with them. He still has concerns about the transparency of the remediation but feels more confident tonight that the soil testing has been thorough.

Mennella submitted the following comment in the chat section of the zoom interface: “I agree that the meetings of the DPW committee should be open to at least the people who it affects. This is why we feel things are not transparent. I will not forget the comment made by one of the council members earlier in this process saying we elect them to make the decisions and they don’t have to tell us.”

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

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Giveaway

Ariemma asked about the status of our tree giveaway. Wolf said he was not able to get the number of trees we needed, so we have canceled this year’s spring event. He suggested we instead hold the event sometime after Mahwah Day in the fall. Wolf said he plans to order 700 flowering tree seedlings. Members discussed the benefit of holding the event in the fall over in the spring when seedlings are more likely to develop stronger root systems.

Tree Plans

Ariemma and Phiefer went around town to provide input on the development of a tree plan. Ariemma emailed their recommendations to the group. She also said she was very upset to see two huge sections of trees being cut down at Continental Soldier’s Park. Wolf will ask the DPW about it.

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.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

Please have the applicant consider green infrastructure practices to support current stormwater regulations. How are the applicants going to protect the new trees being planted on the property? Has any soil testing been done on the property to detect for toxins?

This application review was accepted following a motion made by Pfister; seconded by Phiefer. Ariemma voted against the application. All other members were in favor.

Tesla Inc., 280 Route 17 South, Block 136, Lot 5.02, Docket #622

The Environmental Commission received a Planning Board Application Review Report for an amended site plan for an electric vehicle charging station at the Quickchek.

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

TWJ Mahwah Real Estate, 64 Ramapo Valley Road, Block 40, Lots 25 & 57, Docket #568A2

The Environmental Commission received a Planning Board Application Review Report for an amended site plan for the installation of pavers and awning at the location.

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

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Shruti Mehta, 5 Doremus Road, Block 118, Lot 12.04, E-BD-216-304-697

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application for the installation of an inground pool, patio and fence on the property.

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

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

The Environmental Commission received an amended Soil Movement Permit Application for a pond dredging on the property.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

Please see the original comments from the Environmental Commission.

This application review was approved contingent on the above comments following a motion made by Pfister; seconded by Seibert. All other members were in favor.

Matthew Nyland, 19 Meester Street, Block 163, Lot 14, E-BD-216-3319

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application for a proposed one-story addition to the rear of the existing dwelling on the property.

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

Toll NJ IV, LLC, 39 Roxbury Road, Block 127.01, Lot 5, E-BD-216-3345

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application for a new single-family dwelling on the property.

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

Peter and Christine Luciano, 28 Cortland Trail, Block 120.01, Lots 23-7(16), E-BD-216-304-701

The Environmental Commission received a Soil Movement Permit Application for an above-ground swimming pool, deck, retaining wall and patio extension on the property.

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

TENANT APPLICATIONS

None received

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Various copies of letters, agendas and minutes
- Emails regarding recent and upcoming events

NEW BUSINESS

Lake Henry Cleanup

The Environmental Commission received an email from a resident who observed a lot of trash at Lake Henry.

Bamboo Ordinance

Wolf told members about the constituent call regarding bamboo issues surrounding 42 and 46 Johnson Street. The town's new bamboo ordinance is still under review by the ordinance committee. Ariemma said anything that is there right now should be grandfathered in.

Grants

Wolf said the business administrator has given us access to a grant writer, so we have submitted an ANJECT grant proposal and will continue looking for other grant opportunities, possibly to explore electric charging stations and a bike path in town.

OPEN SESSION

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

No further comments by the public were made.

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

There being no further questions or discussion, the remote meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 10:01 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Pallotta. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary