

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021**

The remote meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Richard Wolf, Chair
 Janet Ariemma, Council Liaison
 Megan Charles
 Carol Phiefer
 Jack Pfister
 Richard Seibert, Co-Chair (*joined call at 8:11 p.m.*)
 Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Frank Pallotta, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 2021 were approved following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Phiefer. Charles abstained. All other present members were in favor.

The minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 2021 were approved following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Phiefer. Charles abstained. All other present members were in favor.

Member Appointments

Wolf welcomed Megan Charles to the commission and discussed arranging some training opportunities for her.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainable Jersey Updates

Wolf said we were able to get an extension on our certification. He reminded everyone to continue working on their respective assignments for our Sustainable Jersey certification.

DPW Site Update

Wolf said he does not have any new updates from Pallotta. Pfister said there is a copy of the site investigation report posted on the town website. Pfister suggested we remove this from future agendas since it is largely outside of our purview. Wolf said he will reach out to Pallotta for more information. Members discussed.

Charles made a motion to open the meeting to the public; Phiefer seconded. All in favor.

Public Comments on DPW Site

Lori Mennella, 32 Wanamaker, said she is concerned about environmental issues in the property behind her house, in the area where the detention pond will be located. She has spoken to the township and was told soil testing at that property is not warranted at this point. She said there is a lot of garbage on the property and is worried about previous soil contamination.

Mennella said the work is going out to bid and she thinks the remediation is starting shortly.

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

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

RPF Realty, LLC, 209 Ramapo Valley Road, Block 132, Lot 4, Docket #619

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Planning Board Application Review Report for the addition of an outdoor dining patio at the site.

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

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Carter, 71 Walnut Street, Block 160, Lot 36, E-BD-216-304-705

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for the installation of a pool, patio, outdoor shower, fence and extensive landscaping on the property.

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

Adam & Liz Molino, 50 Thistle Lane, Block 122, Lot 26, E-BD-216-304-706

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for the installation of a pool, patio, cabana and driveway extension on the property.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

This application is rejected as submitted because there are no trees replaced on the Tree Preservation Application. Please have the applicant submit the required Tree Preservation Plan with at least four replacement trees from the approved list. We would also recommend the applicant consider installing the fence around the border trees to keep them in place, moving the fence closer to the pool to keep the trees on the border, and installing the required replacement trees on the border to maintain privacy.

This application review was rejected with the above comments following a motion made by Charles; seconded by Phiefer. All other members were in favor.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The Environmental Commission reviewed and approved the following tenant applications:

Exelure, 190 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lot 18, TA21-0015

Eyelashes and microblading

Z&Z Supply dba Johnstone Supply, 97 McKee Drive, Block 64, Lot 11, TA21-0016

HVAC wholesale distribution

Comments to Construction:

Please ask the applicant why there is no storage indicated with a facility greater than 20,000 square feet.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Various copies of letters, agendas and minutes
- Upcoming ANJEC training sessions and webinars
- Emails regarding recent and upcoming events

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Planting Schedule

Ariemma asked for an update on our tree planting schedule for spring. Wolf said he will follow up with DPW to check on our options. Ariemma will call around to some nurseries to see what types of trees are available. We would like to pay for the trees using funds from our tree bank. He will copy the mayor and business administrator on the email to DPW.

Rain Garden Update

Ariemma asked if we can coordinate our future efforts with the Beautification Committee. Wolf said we are on the agenda for their next meeting. Ariemma would like to attend as a member of the public.

Environmental Volunteers

Ariemma said she has someone who is interested in volunteering on some environmental initiatives. Wolf said any interested individuals can join our Green Team.

Commission Alternates

Ariemma asked if we can appoint alternates to our Commission. Members discussed. Wolf made a motion to draft a letter to the ordinance committee asking that they amend our ordinance. Seibert seconded. All in favor.

Wolf made a motion to open the meeting to the public; Ariemma seconded. All in favor.

No comments.

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

Grant Updates

Our grant request for the artificial floating island was submitted to ANJEC. We are also exploring grant opportunities for electric vehicle charging stations around town. Lastly, Wolf has asked if we can submit a request for a bike path feasibility study.

Stag Hill Cleanup

Ariemma said we should resurrect the possibility of installing cameras on Stag Hill to monitor illegal dumping activity. We felt they were necessary to enforce the anti-dumping ordinance. Wolf will follow up with the business administrator.

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

Resident John Fesen was listening in on the call. He had no formal comments. No further comments were made by the public.

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

There being no further questions or discussion, the remote meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Phiefer. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary