

**Township of West Milford  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**April 3, 2023**

**Main Meeting Room**

The April 3, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:10 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

**ROLL CALL**

Prior to Roll Call, the oaths of office were administered to the new Commissioners Tim Dalton and Mark Lynch, and reappointed Commissioner Doug Trainor.

**Present:** Tim Dalton, James Lyons, James Roger, Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor, Don Weise, Chairman Stephen Sangle, Alternate #1 Mark Lynch.

**Absent:** None

**PRESENTATIONS** – None.

**APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

**BETTS**

**Bulk Variances ZB-01-23-01**

B 14003; L 29

97 Forest Hill Drive; LR Zone

**Seeking:** Bulk Variance approvals to demo an existing structure and rebuild on an expanded footprint, with variance requested for side yard setback where 30 feet is required and 9.5 ft is proposed, and deck setback where 15 ft is required and 10 ft is proposed.

The West Milford Environmental Commission reviewed the above referenced Board of Adjustment application. Subsequent to their review of the plans, the Commission made the following comments:

- The Commission recommended that the applicant incorporate gutters and leaders to address roof drainage.

**YMCA OF MONTCLAIR**

**Preliminary & Final Site Plan PB-01-23-01**

B 14108; L 6 and B 13704; L 7

131 Germantown Road; R-3 Zone

**Seeking:** Preliminary & Final Site Plan approval to demolish and renovate several existing buildings and construct three structures for the existing day camp. Site improvement include driveway, sidewalks and landscaping.

The West Milford Environmental Commission reviewed the above referenced Planning Board application. Subsequent to their review of the plans, the Commission made the following comments:

- The Commission noted that the applicant had taken the environment into consideration, as evidenced by the plans that were submitted.
- The Commission recommended that the applicant incorporate gutters and leaders on roof structures to prevent drainage spilling to grade.
- The applicant may want to consider a rain garden to slow the discharge to the lake, or rain barrels for water collection.
- The Commission noted that a dry well is indicated on the plans and inquired whether it is for roof drainage.

- The Commission inquired how the applicant is accommodating grease from the kitchen since no grease trap was shown on the plans.
- The applicant is proposing renovation of the bathhouses, but no new septic design was included on the plans.

### **ON GOING BUSINESS**

**Greenway Project:** Chairman Sangle advised that a meeting was held, prior to this regular meeting, with Township Planner Jessica Caldwell and her assistant Allison Kopsco, along with several Commissioners. They have proposed possible routes for Phase 1A and 1B, adding that, in order for this project to proceed, the current concept will begin at Jersey Avenue, with a trail to the TG Pipeline and then to Camp Hope. With the assistance of Jim Lyons and his contacts with the NJDEP, the bridge is an option for Rockport for the foreseeable future. Chairman Sangle further advised that the current concept is to separate Phase 1 into two parts: Phase 1A is a proposed trail from Jersey Ave to Township Property, which would be the least difficult trail to accomplish. Phase 1B will require one easement. Phase 2 will encompass Camp Hope to Brown's Point, and will have to be completed in segments to allow for bridge permits, etc. He further advised that the Highlands Council is funding the Trail Feasibility Study, but until all the details are ironed out, the information for the plan is still being compiled.

**Belchers Creek Testing:** Jim Rogers advised that he received the updated data from Doug Trainor. Mr. Trainor noted that there was a significant increase in nitrates after he stirred the water and silt and took samples. He reported that Mark Lynch was instructed on obtaining test samples of Belcher Creek prior to this meeting and he will assist in getting samples each month. Mr. Trainor will also make some changes to the chart to clarify the data.

**Community Forestry Management Plan:** Commissioner Tim Dalton will assist with the new CFMP that is due in 2024, along with Doug Trainor. Mr. Dalton advised that he has a list of the certified foresters and will try to get a forester to work on the plan with them.

**Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission:** Commissioner Doug Trainor did not attend the recent GWLC meeting, but noted that the GWLC was still waiting on the grant funds that they applied for.

**Lakes Committee:** Jim Rogers reported on the Lakes Committee meeting that was held on March 20, 2023. The results of the water study conducted by Princeton Hydro were presented to the Lakes Committee and the Administration. He noted that Upper Greenwood Lake and Greenwood Lake were not included in the study, but about 17 other lakes were included. Belcher Creek was also not in the study. A presentation on the study results will be held at a public meeting in the near future.

Mr. Rogers reported that Ed Steines was the guest speaker for the meeting, and advised that, due to the mild winter, not much salt had been used on the roadways, with grits only used in UGL. Public Works is preparing a schedule for cleaning the 4500 storm drains in the Township. Mr. Steines also reported that the street sweepers will be on the streets for clean up in the coming weeks.

It was reported at the Lakes Committee meeting that UGL was requested by the State to host emergency drills for dam breaches. Tim Dalton advised that UGL is working with the State of NJ on HABS.

Mr. Rogers reported that Pinecliff Lake was reducing the total number of short term rentals to 5 houses per year in their lake community. Mt. Glen Lakes is not permitting them in their private lake community.

Mr. Rogers also noted that Councilwoman Marilyn Lichtenburg reported at the Lakes Committee meeting that residents are being advised to pump their septic tanks every 3 years by correspondence to the property owner.

**Open Space Committee:** Don Weise reported that the Land Conservancy completed their purchase of Split Rock Mt., which will allow the NY/NJ Trail conference to re-establish the trail between Ringwood State Park and Harriman State Park.

**Environmental Contamination Issues:** Commissioner Tom Tamayne reviewed the contamination notices for the month.

With regard to Veolia, Mr. Tamayne submitted the Commission's request to host a presentation on the planned upgrades for the Veolia facilities, and was advised that we would be contacted by their attorney. There was one exceedance in Bald Eagle Village and Veolia is waiting for parts to be delivered to make the repairs. The Awosting system is fine, but Crescent Park, Highview and Old Milford Estates are all having upgrades to their facilities. The plants will be upgrading their sludge pumping systems and Bald Eagle Village is getting new electrical service.

**Shade Tree Committee:** No update at this time.

**Green Team–Sustainability Committee:** No update at this time.

**Environmental Boardwalk:** Tom Tamayne had nothing new to report at this time.

### **NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS**

**Tree Removal Ordinances:** Chairman Sangle advised that the State will be releasing their new stormwater management plan and we will wait to revise the tree removal ordinance amendments after the adoption of the new plan.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes from the March 6, 2023 Environmental Commission meeting were still in draft form and unavailable for approval at this meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

*The following correspondence was reviewed by the Commission:*

#### **Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence**

1. None.

#### **NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence**

1. Application for Transition Area Special Activity Waiver and FHA Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit received Veolia - Bald Eagle Village WWTP Upgrades, dated Mar 31, 2023 regarding Block 7801; Lot 65, for replacement of aging infrastructure and equipment to meet existing NJDES requirements.

2. NJDEP – Office of Dam Safety & Flood Engineering notification dated March 22, 2023, regarding Lake Sonoma Dam, Dam File # 22-162, acknowledging receipt of the proposed construction documents submitted by Applied Geocology Inc for the construction of a new cold water siphon system for Lake Sonoma Dam, including temporary/intermittent installation of a siphon system to bring cold water to the downstream Burnt Meadow Brook for fish habitation purposes. Approval is granted with conditions including, but not limited to: all work to be performed under the direct supervision of the project designer, the work shall be subject to inspection by representatives of the Bureau with no changes in the procedures beyond certain adjustments under the advisement of the Bureau, lake lowering and fish

salvage to be coordinated with NJDEP Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, written notice to NJDEP prior to construction commencing, completion report with as-built drawings and specifications, project status update due by Dec 31, 2023 including continued use in 2024 and beyond.

3. Draft Renewal (DSW) Discharge to Surface Water and Consolidated Master General Permit Renewal for Potable Water Treatment Plants notice received from the NJDEP, dated March 27, 2023, regarding multiple WTP including Charlotteburg WTP on the Pequannock River.
4. Notification of an application for a FHA GP By Certification 10 for an in-kind replacement of one culvert within a portion of the Branchburg-New York Right of Way Span 58/2 – 58/3, B 9901; L 1, Dockerty Hollow Road.
5. Notification from Ferriero Engineering Inc. that an application is being submitted to the NJDEP to authorize alterations to an existing SSDS at B 7903; L 14 & 15. The combined wastewater flow on the property for all of the buildings exceeds 2,000 gpd, and proposes to abandon the existing septic systems serving the municipal offices and construct a new system that meets current State standards for treatment and disposal.
6. Suspected Hazardous Discharge notification, dated March 18, 2023, NJDEP Case # 23-03-17-0924-35, 655 Warwick Tpk, B 905; L 20, regarding an oil spill in a basement that was not remediated and may have been included in water exiting the home from the sump pump.
7. FW GP # 24 application notice, dated March 16, 2023 regarding Michael Betts, 97 Forest Hill Dr, B 14113; L 29, proposing disturbance to a transition area for the replacement of a malfunctioning subsurface sewage disposal system.
8. Notification from Synergy Environmental Inc, dated March 13, 2023, regarding the Biennial Certification for Lakeside Amoco, PI #012599, Case # 84-07-06-04N, 2 Lakeside Dr, B 3509; L 16.
9. Notification dated 02-08-23 from Richard Bayley regarding an application for a land use authorization/permit for the in-kind replacement of an existing bulkhead at 93 Pt. Breeze, B 2601; L 2.
10. Notification dated 03-06-23 from Tomkevich regarding an application for a land use authorization/permit for a deck replacement and septic system replacement at 48 Brookfield Rd., B 207; L 10.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. Correspondence from ANJEC, dated March 27, 2023 regarding the recent chemical spill (approximately 8,100 gallons latex-type chemical) in a tributary to the Delaware River.
2. ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants – Applications due April 17, 2023.
3. March FREC Events, Forest Resource Education Center, Jackson, NJ.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the April 3, 2023 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:15 p.m. on a **motion** by Tim Dalton with a **second** by Jim Rogers.

Approved: May 1, 2023

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary