

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

JANUARY 6, 2014

The January 6, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:42 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL: Present: Timothy Dalton, Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Don Weise, Alternates *Jennifer Easterbrook & Lucas Slott, Chairman Stephen Sangle.
 Absent: *Andrew Abdul, *Gary Oppenheimer
 Also Present: Bob Jonas, Doris Aaronson.

*Re-appointments were not made by Mayor Bieri at the Township Re-organization meeting. The Mayor has indicated that she will review the attendance records and research the candidates for the positions.

Chairman Stephen Sangle advised that a quorum was present to conduct this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS – Chairman Stephen Sangle advised that Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro would not be present at the Environmental Commission meeting due to a work related issue, but would provide an update at next month's Environmental Commission meeting.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

NJDEP Green Comm.\$3000.00 Grant for Community Forestry Management Plan: No update was available from Ron Farr.

NJDEP NNL Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00: No update was available from Ron Farr.

2006 (Repurposed) Recreational Trails Grant for Environmental Boardwalk: Nothing to report – this project has been completed. Chairman Sangle requested that this item be removed from the agenda.

2010 ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant-Trails Master Plan: Chairman Sangle advised that 6 members and volunteers met for an hour prior to the Environmental Commission meeting and it should be noted that 6 hours of in-kind services should be credited towards this grant. Work is progressing on the trails plan, with additional information to be included on the database and in the GIS mapping.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Lakes Committee: No report was available due to the absence of the Commission's liaison, Andrew Abdul.

Open Space Committee: The Weaver Road property (Block 12001; Lots 16 & 19) offered to the Township for possible open space acquisition was reviewed by the Commission. Don Weise advised that he had hiked the property to determine its possible benefit as a recreational site and trail connector. He noted that there were several woods roads used by hunters and ATV riders. He also discovered debris that appeared to have been dumped 20 – 30 years ago. Bob Jonas commented that a church had been proposed near the site, but did not know the status. The price for the parcel in question would have to be negotiated by the Land Conservancy for the Township. Chairman Sangle suggested that the site be visited in the Spring for further assessment, after the snow has melted.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reported that the Village Garage contamination report was received by the Township, noting that benzene was found in one of the monitoring wells. The documents are available in the Planning Office.

Green Team/Sustainable Subcommittee–Sustainable Jersey Grant Submission Resolution #2013-356: Chairman Sangle reported that the anti-idling resolution for signage was not approved by the Township Council, and they have indicated in the approved resolution their preference for educational initiatives rather than grants for signage. Tom Tamayne suggested that the Commission's Green Team proceed with the \$2000. Sustainable Jersey small grant application, but it should focus more on educational programs and informational literature. Chairman Sangle stressed that the focus should be on education, in the form of flyers for distribution at the Autumn Lights Festival and other events, but anti-idling should not be the primary intent. Don Weise suggested informational facts, such as when it is appropriate to turn an engine off, etc. Chairman Sangle noted that the language for the grant material should be kept simple and general, stating that the funds will be used for

educational purposes. He reviewed the process for grant submissions, advising that the Township Administrator and Treasurer must approve any application for a grant submission, followed by an approval resolution from the Township Council. Once the grant document has been completed it must be signed off on by the Administrator, Treasurer, and other authorized agents of the Township. Chairman Sangle further advised that Jennifer Easterbrook, Tim Dalton, Tom Tamayne, and Luke Slott would confer with Renee Alessio, and report back to him and Doug Ott so that they can review the grant with the new Township Administrator. The Secretary advised that a least week or two should be budgeted for a review of the grant documents by Township staff.

On another matter, Chairman Sangle advised that he had been contacted by Renee Alessio, Chair of the Sustainable Subcommittee /Green Team, and he requested that she send an email to updated the Commission on her position and future efforts. As a result of his conversation with her, he observed that the Commission will need to provide more direct assistance to the Green Team/Sustainable Subcommittee.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline: Chairman Sangle requested that this item be removed from the agenda.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Luke Slott reported on a new law about beaver trapping that implies that the traditional methods were inhumane. Bob Jonas noted the prior issues we have had with beavers at the Environmental Boardwalk, and commented that the DPW arranged with the NJDEP to trap and remove the beavers, adding that although he was fond of the beavers, they cause extensive damage and create additional wetland areas.

With regard to the Sustainable Jersey grant application, Doris Aaronson suggested that a brochure should be created with general information about air pollution, and it could include anti idling measures. Chairman Sangle reviewed the resolution for the Commission and emphasized that direction had been given by the Council in the form of the resolution. Don Weise commented that when the NY/NJ Trails Conference applies for capacity building grants, they apply for funds to be used for training purposes. Chairman Sangle suggested that the Green Team check the Sustainable Jersey site to determine what topics would best fit the Council's recommendations.

MINUTES

The Secretary advised that the minutes for the October and November 2013 Regular Meetings of the West Milford Environmental Commission will be available at the February meeting for review and approval.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Highlands Water Protection And Planning Act Correspondence

1. Notice of Certification of Highlands Exemption Ordinance dated December 5, 2013 received from the Highlands Council, authorizing the municipality to issue Highlands Act Exemptions in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Highlands Council and the NJDEP.
2. Copy of an application for a Highlands Exemption #4 received from Fastech Consulting Engineers, dated December 31, 2013, for Camp Hope, Block 6402; Lot 4, regarding the reconstruction of a 107' x 43' swimming pool and 40' x 40' wading pool into a smaller 60' x 41' swimming pool and 41' x 80' spray park with full recirculation and filtration system.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Notification from LAN Associates, dated December 17, 2013, regarding the Case Inventory Document with Site Map and NJDEP Remedial Investigation Report for Village Garage, 101 Otterhole Road, Block 15403; Lot 1, Case #00-01-27-1626-04.

Miscellaneous Correspondence - Renewal notice for 2014 ANJEC Membership - \$400. with Workshop Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Doris Aaronson commented on some of the discussions that had taken place at a recent Township Council meeting with regard to the Environmental Commission and the Greenwood Lake Commission. She requested that the Commission get a transcript recording of the Council meeting and discuss it at their next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to come before the Commission, the January 6, 2014 meeting was **adjourned** at **8:40 p.m.** on a **motion** by Doug Ott and a **second** by Tim Dalton.

Approved: May 5, 2014

Respectfully submitted,