

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

February 1, 2016

The February 1, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:37 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

Jim Rogers was appointed to fill the Alternate #2 position on the Environmental Commission and was welcomed to the Commission by Chairman Stephen Sangle. Mr. Rogers was provided his oath of office.

ROLL CALL

Present: Andrew Abdul, Tim Dalton, Gary Oppenheimer, Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Alt. #1 Jennifer Easterbrook, Alt. #2 Jim Rogers, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: Don Weise.

Also Present: Dave Ofshinsky, MUA, Kathleen Caren.

Chairman Sangle requested Alternate Jennifer Easterbrook to sit in for Don Weise and advised that there was a quorum for this meeting. He expressed the Commission's sadness at the loss of a former Commissioner, Irene Smith, who recently passed away, and noted that he and Doug Ott had attended the wake.

PRESENTATIONS - None.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

JASON POST

Bulk Variance #ZB-11-15-14

Block 2415; Lot 1

42 Eatontown Road; LR

Seeking: Bulk Variance approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the construction of a 10' x 20' storage shed in the front yard where only side and/or rear yard is permitted per §500-12D.

Following a review of the above referenced application, the Commission advised that there did not appear to be evidence of any environmental concerns.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

NJDEP NNL Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00: Chairman Sangle reported that Ron Farr, Forestry Consultant, was not present to provide an update but has been in contact with him regarding the bid documents for the project. Several contractors were inquiring about items that were not included in the bid documents and Mr. Farr was attempting to clarify where in the bid package that the information was located. Chairman Sangle suggested that a meeting be set up with the Commissioners involved to review the documents with Mr. Farr.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Shade Tree Commission: Commissioner Tim Dalton and Dave Stires, Recycling Coordinator, reported that they both attended the Shade Tree Conference and received CORE Training, but it appears that the prior Administration did not fully support West Milford's participation in the program and was hesitant about providing funding for continuation in the program. Mr. Stires noted that he requested funds in the Township budget for the additional classes needed to retain certification with the Shade Tree Commission, but he could not get confirmation that the Township would cover the CEU/certification costs. He was concerned since the annual report was due and neither he nor Tim Dalton received the approximately 15-18 CEU's required for full certification. Chairman Sangle reminded the Commissioners that participation in the Shade Tree Commission was a pre-requisite for receiving the NNL Reforestation grant. Mr. Dalton remarked that the Shade Tree Commission brought liability protection for the Township and he discussed this with the former Administrator. Chairman Sangle suggested that a portion of the Shade Tree Commission funding could be budgeted in the 2016 Township budget and another portion in 2017. Mr. Stires advised that he is required to complete 20 CEU's for Recycling and 20 CEU's for the Clean Communities program every two years, and they are costly. The Commission discussed funding for the Shade Tree program requirements. The Secretary was requested to

send a memo to the new Township Administrator to request a meeting with Tim Dalton and Dave Stires regarding this program, stressing how important it is to meet the NNL grant requirements.

Mr. Dalton also outlined the other matters that he wanted to discuss with the Township Administrator:

- Access to the GIS system to do updates on the trail maps (the Township Engineering Dept. advised that the Township Administrator must provide approval)
- Township participation in the Energy Star Program – the Administrator must advise who will be the designated representatives for this program
- Septic tank records – monitoring system needs to be set up with the Health Dept.

Chairman Sangle commented that a new Health Officer was supposed to be appointed, and he thought it wise to wait until the transition period was over, but Mr. Dalton can proceed with the understanding that there may be a new Health Officer within the year. Mr. Dalton noted that he went to the Village of Greenwood Lake to observe their septic monitoring system. Chairman Sangle advised that when he prepares the procedures, he should keep in mind that the prior Health Officer recommended flexibility in the time that the pumping can be completed based on the number of people in a residence, usage estimates, etc., and at the discretion of the Health Officer, some latitude can be given to the pumping schedule.

Lakes Committee: Andy Abdul reported that the Lakes Committee would not be holding meetings until March.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Andy Abdul reported that he could not attend the last Greenwood Lake Commission meeting. Mr. Dalton inquired whether there would be a drawdown of Greenwood Lake this year, and Mr. Abdul responded that it would be over the next winter. Chairman Sangle commented that aerial photography of the lake will be conducted and the effluence seeping from the failed septic systems at the residences around the lake will be visible.

Open Space Committee: Chairman Sangle advised that he sent an email to the Mayor and Council regarding the importance of acquiring the Weaver Road property, but he feels that the Council may be leaning more towards funding recreation rather than open space. In his email he reminded them that certain funds that were present were to be used for open space, and the later funds collected were to be shared for historic site maintenance, recreation and open space. He noted that the Recreation Director was at the last open space meeting and he was in favor of acquiring the Weaver Road property, and had observed that there were sufficient ball fields, but maintenance was needed. Chairman Sangle remarked that the Township needed to provide maintenance of the fields they have before purchasing more fields.

With regard to the Land Conservancy, Chairman Sangle also requested that the Council renew their contract with them since it is money well spent for the services that they provide.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reported that he received notice of a 15 gal. diesel fuel spill on Rt. 23. He also received a notice of a 275 gal UGST to be removed on Belford Drive.

Green Team–Sustainable Subcommittee: Jennifer Easterbrook was pleased that the Township was considering the Energy Star program and hopes that the Administrator will be supportive of the program. With regard to the Sustainable Jersey program, Ms. Easterbrook advised that she is compiling data at this time and the Green Team members are working individually on items, so the meetings are on hold. She requested the Commissioners to send her the information needed for re-certification since tracking is essential, and she has the ability to store the information for submission when required. Gary Oppenheimer suggested using the website “Way Back Machine” which takes snapshots of websites all the time, and it may be used if there is a concern about information lost that was once posted. Ms. Easterbrook noted that the problem is that you would need to know exactly what information you are seeking. Tom Tamayne attempted to contact someone in the High School for assistance with the Sustainable Jersey program initiatives, but did not receive a response, and Ms. Easterbrook commented that it was difficult to get people to organize and commit to the program, as it required a certain level of expertise. Mr. Tamayne concurred, adding that the High School has their own Green Team and are committed to their Sustainable Jersey program requirements. Mr. Tamayne offered to host virtual meetings for the EC’s Green Team on his company’s virtual meeting system from Cisco which should make it more convenient for members who will not have to leave their homes for the meetings.

Beaver Dam at Environmental Boardwalk: Chairman Sangle advised that the Environmental Boardwalk water level appears stable and the beaver issue does not seem to have resurfaced.

Belchers Creek Testing Project: Andy Abdul reported that he has the testing equipment calibrated and he needs to set a date for the Commission to start testing. Chairman Sangle noted that there was not much ice this year on Belchers Creek and Greenwood Lake.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Kathleen Caren, Passaic County Planning was present at the meeting and advised that the Watershed Ambassador, Lily Mastrodimos, had planned to attend but had a death in the family, so she would attend the next meeting. Ms. Caren reported that Ms. Mastrodimos had conducted an assessment near Valley View Pub off Union Valley Road. She discussed some options of floating devices to help filter the areas of discharge. Chairman Sangle noted that storm drains that drain into Belchers Creek may be a source to monitor, especially with the abundance of clay soil in the Township, which is not permeable, allowing stormwater to flow into storm drains. He felt that the high nitrate and phosphate levels were not from one source, but numerous sources, and suggested that a unit might be able to be installed downstream. Ms. Caren reviewed several municipalities that received grant funds for rain barrels and rain gardens, and Chairman Sangle remarked that the Commission/Township had received 319h grants in the past, but Dr. Fred Lubnow from Princeton Hydro recently emailed him that much of the funding for 319h grants was being awarded to southern portions of the State. Ms. Caren suggested that funding might be available for watershed management, but Mr. Ott noted that the Township encompasses a very large watershed area. Ms. Caren advised that the current Watershed Ambassador reported that the Belchers Creek area was the worst of all the areas she was assigned to. Mr. Ott observed that with all the testing in the past, it was difficult to isolate the areas that were the cause. Chairman Sangle advised that with the new equipment purchased, and comparing the testing results with prior testing, the Commission hoped to be able to determine the sources so that they can be addressed. Ms. Caren distributed several documents regarding testing of water conditions, including turbidity, odor, surface coating and stream flow, and Mr. Abdul noted that they were similar to what he received when he attended the Raritan Headwaters stream monitoring training. The Commission discussed several funding options and grants for purchase of the Weaver Road and other open space sites.

Gary Oppenheimer reviewed an upcoming campaign on reducing food waste, and noted that he will be doing a presentation at Ramapo college that is open to the public. The Commission discussed composting and recycling, and Jim Rogers commented that West Milford is only at 40% recycling rate.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the December 2015 Regular Meeting of the West Milford Environmental Commission were **approved** on a **motion** by Tom Tamayne and a **second** by Tim Dalton.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - *The following correspondence items were reviewed by the Commission and filed:*

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. None.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Notification from the NJDEP – Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control, dated December 23, 2015 advising the Farm Crest Acres Lake Association that their request for an extension of time for submitting conceptual designs for rehabilitation of the Upper Crest Lake Dam and Lower Crest Lake Dam was approved, with conceptual designs due by March 31, 2016.

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received/Sent

1. Correspondence received January 5, 2016 from Passaic County Department of Economic Development regarding a Brownfields Commission meeting held on January 20, 2016, topic of discussion: site Remediation Program.

2. Notification dated January 11, 2016 received from Township of Hardyston regarding a public hearing scheduled on January 28, 2016 to consider an amendment to the Land Use Plan Element of the Township of Hardyston Master Plan.
3. Notification from Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District dated December 2, 2015, received January 11, 2016, regarding Block 3903; Lot 26, 1636 Greenwood Lake Tpk, certifying the soil erosion and sediment control plan for Corbett single family dwelling demo and rebuild.
4. Notification from Ferreiro Engineering, Inc. dated January 7, 2016 advising that a special activity transition area waiver application for redevelopment was submitted for Nosenzo Pond Park, Block 9302; Lot 16, Nosenzo Pond Road for the Township of West Milford.
5. Notification from Ferreiro Engineering, Inc. dated January 7, 2016 advising that a special activity transition area waiver application for redevelopment was submitted for the Westbrook Park Project at Block 11101; Lot 1, 1073 Westbrook Road for the Township of West Milford.
6. Copy of an application to the NJDEP, dated December 31, 2015, for a G.P. 25 from Raymond Shank c/o Tracy Anderson regarding the installation of a subsurface sanitary disposal system at Block 12208; Lot 12, 33 Poplar Grove Terrace.
7. Notification from PSE&G Co., dated January 8, 2016, and a copy of an application to the NJDEP regarding a Freshwater Wetlands GP#1 Permit in support of electric overhead and underground transmission rights of way vegetative maintenance for properties within 16 counties and 149 municipalities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - See above under New or Current Business.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the February 1, 2016 meeting was **adjourned** at **8:57p.m.** on a **motion** by Doug Ott and a **second** by Tom Tamayne.

Approved: June 6, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary