

**Township of West Milford  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**February 1, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting - Via Zoom**

The February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was held virtually, via Zoom, beginning at 7:00 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Janet Little, David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Thomas Tamayne  
Chairman Stephen Sangle.

**Absent:** Tim Dalton, Douglas Trainor, Don Weise.

**Also Present:** Lucas Slott

Chairman Stephen Sangle requested Janet Little to sit in for one of the absent Commissioners, and advised that a quorum was present for this meeting

**PRESENTATIONS** – None.

**APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

**JENNIFER SCATES**

**Bulk Variance #ZB-11-20-11**

Block 13812; Lots 3 & 4  
37 Walker Ave.; LR Zone

**Seeking:** Bulk Variance approval for a 699 s.f. addition to an existing single family dwelling, with variances requested for side yard setback, where 30' is required, 24.6' and 42.3' exists, and 24.6' is proposed; front yard setback where 40' is required, 15.6' exists, and 14.8' is proposed; and lot coverage where 10% is required, 10.37% exists, and 17.38% is proposed.

Chairman Sangle reviewed the application submitted to the Board of Adjustment. It was noted that no topographical details were provided on the plans. Commissioner Janet Little commented that it should be a requirement to include leaders and gutters on new buildings and additions, etc. to address stormwater runoff. Subsequent to the review, the Commission made the following comments:

The plans submitted so not depict leaders or gutters. The Commission recommended that they be installed, in addition to having the applicant consider installing rain barrels to help control the increase in stormwater runoff.

The plans do not show adjacent properties, but the Commission recommended that any exterior lighting on the addition be installed in a manner that would not affect neighboring properties.

**ON GOING BUSINESS**

**Belchers Creek Testing:** Commissioner Jim Rogers reported that Dave Ofshinsky had compiled the results on the testing of Belchers Creek, and 38 tests had been completed. He noted that Nitrates continue to be a problem, so he suggested that another entity be apprised so that it can be addressed. Chairman Sangle had discussed this with Mr. Ofshinsky and they are recommending that the results be sent to the Health Dept. for review

The Commissioners noted that the readings at the rear of the former Valley View and Rockport indicate that there is an issue, but also noted that the Valley View is vacant, so there should not be much running into the creek. With regard to the revised Belchers Creek testing chart, the Chairman advised that the higher the number, the higher up on Belchers Creek the site is (Stephens Road to Brown's Point). Janet Little commented that she conducted the test several times since the readings were so elevated at the John Street site.

The Commissioners concurred that a memo should be sent to the Health Dept., with the Belchers Creek Testing Data, and request that they contact us following their review. Commissioner Tom Tamayne suggested that some of the titles on the Excel spreadsheet be changed and Dave Ofshinsky will take care of this. Chairman Sangle commented that testing might be considered near the Old Milford sewer plant to see what the numbers are, and Mr. Ofshinsky said that he will try to get access to the creek near that plant. Chairman Sangle observed that Don Weise will also need to be instructed on the testing procedures.

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

**Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: AAR - Annual Accomplishment Report Due 02-15-21.** There was no update, as of this meeting, from Tim Dalton on the annual report.

**NJDEP NNL Forestry Grant Project Closeout:** No update was available at this time.

**Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission:** Janet Little reported that there were representatives from companies at the recent GWLC meeting to present proposals over strategies for HABS and weed control, and although they have Princeton Hydro on board, the GWLC were in the process of interviewing lake management companies that could provide solutions, possibly in the form of aeration systems. The GWLC also discussed proposed projects for West Milford Lake. Ms. Little reported that the GWLC hired a company to do stormwater mapping and Chairman Sangle was under the assumption that the mapping stormwater management plan had already been completed.

Chairman Sangle reviewed a proposal for West Milford Lake that had been developed between the Environmental Commission and Princeton Hydro in 2007. Following a brief discussion, the Commission concurred that they would wait for more information before reaching out to the GWLC on this matter.

**Lakes Committee:** Jim Rogers did not have an updated report since there was no meeting held by the Lakes Committee in January. The next meeting will be held in March.

**Environmental Contamination Issues:** Tom Tamayne reported that he received a notice regarding possible contamination on Wooley Road (listed in the correspondence). The Commission noted that one of the houses on Greenwood Lake Tpk. near Burnt Meadow Road had multiple unregistered vehicles at the site and there are wetlands to the rear, so it is another site that should be investigated, as well as Zoning being notified.

Mr. Tamayne provided the following report on his monthly review with a representative from Suez:

- All work in December and January was concentrated on Bald Eagle Village.
- Took Clarifiers off line for rebuild (both Circular and Laminar Plate) - Cleaned and repaired. Was awaiting parts for Laminar Plate Unit but now all back in service.
- Filter Rehab has started. Using temporary filter while rehab is in progress.
- Disposal Field has been rehabbed.
- Last piece will be getting Micro C working in place of methanol for denitrification. This has now been completed.

- Received approval for Peracetic Acid Treatment process to be installed upstream of the Ultraviolet treatment.
- Installed equipment and implemented process. Initially had high value on fecal in January and adjusted dose and got better results. Will continue to monitor.
- After smoke testing identified a number of points for infiltration, they have corrected the items identified on the service side of the connections. They have notified Bald Eagle Village Homeowner's association of leaks in private lines. They need to rectify.

**Open Space Committee:** Chairman Sangle advised that he has not received any updates from The Land Conservancy. He will reach out to Don Weise to see if he has received any communication regarding the Updated Open Space & Recreation Plan.

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

**Environmental Boardwalk** – Mr. Tamayne reported that he had spoken to the trapper and the beavers had not re-built the dam. The trapper will leave the trap at the site in the event that they return, and will check the trap periodically, provided that the water is not too high. He further reported that the Boardwalk is “high and dry”.

**NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS** – Luke Slott, former Environmental Commissioner, was present to advise the Commission that the Sustainable West Milford organization would be present at the upcoming Township Council meeting to express concerns about the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline Compressor Station that is planned for Burnt Meadow Road. They will also be reviewing the Environmental Impact Statement since this site is adjacent to the Monksville Reservoir and other sensitive lands. The Commission noted that no application had been filed with the Township, but notices about this project from different agencies have been received by the Township since 2020.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes from the December 7, 2020 Environmental Commission meeting were approved on a **motion** by Jim Rogers with a **second** by Dave Ofshinsky. The minutes from the January 4, 2021 meeting were approved on a **motion** by Dave Ofshinsky with a **second** by Jim Rogers.

## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

The following correspondence was reviewed by the Commission:

**Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence** - None.

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

1. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notice received from the NJDEP, dated January 7, 2021, regarding JB Enterprises and Diversification, 26 Wooley Rd, Block 10001; Lot 9, for an anonymous report regarding approximately 100 derelict vehicles at the site and possible petroleum products leakage, as well as dredging operations in progress in suspected wetlands.
2. Notification from McKittrick Engineering, dated 01-19-21, regarding an application to be made for a general permit authorization for a new septic in a wetlands transition area at 10 Oakwood Ave., Block 13808; Lot 13.
3. Correspondence from the NJDEP – Division of Dam Safety, dated December 21, 2020, regarding the Upper Greenwood Lake Dam, Block 2901; Lot 1, NJDEP Dam File No. 22-97, advising that the 2020 dam safety inspection report which found the dam to be in Satisfactory condition. Existing inundation mapping is outdated and must be updated and submitted to the Division of Dam Safety by April 15, 2021.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. \*Correspondence from Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District (HEPSCD), dated January 6, 2021, regarding Vento, 40 Stephens Road, West Milford, NJ, Block 7701; Lot 19, addressing complaints received related to soil movement activities and erosion issues, for soil disturbance that exceeds 5,000 square feet in area. An explanation of the activities and documentation to HEPSCD is required by 01-20-21. Application for a NJ Soil Erosion and Sediment Control certification is also required and owner is to refrain from additional activity until such time that proper permits have been obtained.

\*Comments from the Environmental Commission: Homeowner brought fill to property with no permits or authorization. Dave Ofshinsky commented that there is always a lot of run-off from the paddocks on the horse farm. Chairman Sangle noted that there should be some method or device to capture stormwater run-off from horse farm. Mr. Ofshinsky was near the site the prior day and there was horse manure coming from the farm onto the road.

2. HEPSCD re-certification of soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated 11-30-20, regarding Stafford Macopin Improvements, 711 Macopin Rd., Block 14001; Lot 16, with limit of disturbance at 0.805 acre in total.

3. HEPSCD certification of soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated 11-09-20, regarding Hernandez Point Breeze, 111 & 115 Pt. Breeze, Hewitt, NJ, Block 2601; Lots 1, 7, 8.

4. ANJEC News.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the February 1, 2021 regular meeting held via Zoom was **adjourned** at 8:15 p.m. on a **motion** by Jim Rogers and a **second** by Dave Ofshinsky.

Approved: March 1, 2021

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary