

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

MAY 5, 2014

The May 5, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order in the West Milford Municipal Court Room at 7:34 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice. The Main Meeting Room was unavailable due to a special meeting scheduled for the Governing Body.

ROLL CALL

Present: Andrew Abdul (7:44), Tim Dalton, Gary Oppenheimer, Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Don Weise, Alternates Jennifer Easterbrook and Lucas Slott, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Ron Farr, Bob Jonas, Clinton Smith

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

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW – None.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW

2007 GWL NPS 319(h) Grant: Chairman Sangle advised that Dr. Fred Lubnow provided an update at the prior Environmental Commission meeting.

NJDEP Green Comm.\$3000.00 Grant for Community Forestry Management Plan: Ron Farr, Certified Forester, and grant consultant, advised that he met with several Commissioners prior to this regular meeting. Changes were made to the draft CFMP and items required from the D.P.W. were discussed. Chairman Sangle requested that the final draft copy of the plan be provided to the Township Council for review at their June 25 meeting. Mr. Farr will compile a list of information needed from the D.P.W. and it will be forwarded to the secretary. Mr. Farr indicated the need for photos of the trees at the Wallisch property that survived cutting for the TGP project. Gary Oppenheimer suggested that he get a photo of the Mountain Rest tree, which may be one of the oldest in the Township.

NJDEP NNL Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00: Ron Farr reported that, upon completion and approval of the CFMP, planting can begin on the NNL grant project.

2010 ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant - Trails Master Plan: Tim Dalton reported that by the week's end, he will have contacted the Commission's consultant, Joanna Slagle, for the remaining data needed for the trail plan document. The document will be sent to the Commission for review, then the Township Planning Board and Council.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Lakes Committee: Andy Abdul distributed the minutes from the prior month's Lakes Committee meeting. He reported that the main discussion at their meeting centered on the opening of the lakes, and any new state and local requirements.

GWL Bi-State Commission: Andy Abdul reported that the discussion at the Bi-State Commission meeting focused on weed growth in Greenwood Lake, with the main suspect thought to be Belchers Creek. With regard to the weed harvester, it was noted at the GWL Comm. meeting that the unit will be in serviceable condition to clear the weeds prior to the boat races. A copy of the GWL Commission's By-Laws should be obtained for the Environmental Commission's files. Bob Jonas inquired whether the effluent at the perimeter of the lake be measured, and Doug Ott responded that Belcher's creek testing was completed about 7 years prior and no "smoking guns" were discovered at that time. Chairman Sangle commented that the time to determine where the problems are originating is when the lake is lowered. Seepage from septic systems can be detected at that time, as well as storm drain run-off. It was noted that the lawn fertilizer ordinance is now in effect, and should have an effect on the amount of phosphorous entering the lake. Mr. Ott noted that when the fecal choliform testing was

completed, monitoring took place from Pinecliff Lake Dam to Greenwood Lake, and nothing major was detected at that time to signal a red flag. Chairman Sangle observed that high geese population resulted in higher fecal coliform levels. Clinton Smith, GWL Commissioner, stated that he had a copy of the testing results noted by Mr. Ott. The Chairman referred to Dr. Lubnow's report at a prior meeting and he would be on the look out for grants for monitoring and testing Belchers Creek, and any current testing can be compared to the prior test results. Mr. Smith commented that he believed that things were progressing in a more positive way now, and that 1/3 of the houses around the lake had recent septic repairs or replacements.

Open Space Committee: Chairman Sangle reported that he received a copy of an email from Linda Glosinsky of the Land Conservancy regarding an appraisal of the Weaver Road property. He will contact her for a further update. Bob Jonas expressed concern about the continuous ATV use at the property, and inquired when the surveying will be complete, to which Chairman Sangle replied that surveying will be completed, after the contract is signed and the conditions have been met. Tim Dalton commented that there will be a plan for the trails on the property.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne inquired whether the notice was received and addressed by all the residents near the Stainsby Road contamination. The Secretary will check the files.

Green Team–Sustainable Subcommittee: Jennifer Easterbrook, Chairperson of the Sustainable Subcommittee, reported on Sustainable Jersey Re-certification and it was determined that 150 points are required for certification at the Bronze level. Currently, the Township can verify 170 points. She referred to the Sustainable Jersey site and requested that members upload information to the site since there were many incomplete items to be addressed. Ms. Easterbrook reviewed the cycle for there-certification process, with June 8, 2014 as the deadline for the re-cert application, and November 23, 2014 as the final submission date. With regard to attaining Silver Certification, Ms. Easterbrook noted that three priority items are required, and there is a need to select one more priority item. She reviewed the projects that the Township can get credit for, including the Trails Master Plan. Mr. Oppenheimer commented that he had a letter from the Asst. Surgeon General for Ample Harvest that could be submitted. He also suggested that residents could use plastic recyclable bags at the dog run for do waste. Ms. Easterbrook requested that the Commission contact her about programs that are in existence so that the Township can be recognized for it with Sustainable Jersey. Tim Dalton noted the Health Fair that was being conducted in May with the Township, in conjunction with the Lions Club. It was noted that all items to be included with the re-cert application are due by the May 27 Sustainable Subcommittee meeting. Tim Dalton also noted that there will be a Green Fest at the Autumn Lights Festival, and he will reach out to the A.L.F. committee to try to get them to making the event "greener." Ms. Easterbrook reported that the brochures and tote bags that are being created with a S.J. grant will be distributed to visitors of their booth at A.L.F. Mr. Jonas suggested someone contact NJDEP for a sample of the bear footprints and stuffed bears.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Environmental Boardwalk at Maple Road: Bob Jonas reported on efforts at the Environmental Boardwalk and the beaver dams, and noted that in 2012 he removed the dam 65 times until the DEP approved trapping of the beavers. He was concerned that part of the boardwalk may become submerged again and will damage the new boards that were recently repaired/replaced. He proposed the installation of a "beaver deceiver", and the Commission discussed several options.

Mr. Jonas also discussed parking by various trailheads, and suggested a property by Banker Road as a possible open space acquisition. Chairman Sangle noted that it would have to be referred to the Planning Board, Council after being discussed at an open space meeting. The taxes and assessed value will have to be determined also.

MINUTES

The Minutes for January 6, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting were **unanimously approved** on a **motion** by Luke Slott and a **second** by Tim Dalton.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – *The following was reviewed by the Environmental Commission and filed:*

Highlands Water Protection And Planning Act Correspondence

1. Notice from the NJ Highlands Council, dated April 11, 2014, regarding training sessions for the Highlands Area Delegated Exemption Certification Program to be held on May 6 and 8, 2014.
2. Copy of a Highlands Applicability Determination (HAD) application, dated April 17, 2014, from the Township of West Milford, for Block 6002; Lots 18.01, 18.02, 28.03, Airport Road, regarding the proposed Recycling Facility Access Driveway.
3. Highlands Act–Exemption #4, Water Quality Management Plan-Consistent notification received, dated March 25, 2014, regarding the proposed Awosting Clubhouse, Block 4105; Lot 1, Long Pond Road.
4. Exemption #11, Water Quality Management Plan – Not Addressed notice, dated April 24, 2014, received from the Highlands/NJDEP for the Pequannock Water Treatment Plant Improvements, located on Route 23, Block 14102; Lot 1.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. No Further Action letter, dated April 16, 2014, received from the NJDEP regarding 48 Warwick Tpk, Block 6802; Lot 1, for the removal of a 550 gallon #2 Heating Oil UGST.
2. Copy of an application to the NJDEP from LAN Associates, dated April 16, 2014, for Shiloh Bible Camp, Block 6002; Lot 47, 753 Burnt Meadow Road, regarding a Letter of Interpretation Extension request for a possible future building or expansion of an existing camp facility.
3. No Further Action letter, dated April 1, 2014, received from the NJDEP regarding 1329 Macopin Rd. for the removal of a 550 gallon #2 Heating Oil UGST at Block 9401; Lot 9.
4. Copy of an application, dated March 26, 2014, received from Civil Dynamics on behalf of Vacamas Programs for Youth, regarding a Statewide General Permit #18 for the Rehabilitation of the Henion Pond Dam (NJDEP File # 22-18).
5. Letter from the NJDEP, dated March 27, 2014, regarding the West Milford M.U.A. – Well Station Generator Replacements, advising that a HAD - Highlands Applicability Determination is required to determine whether this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Highlands Act.
6. Notice from the NJDEP, dated March 7, 2014, regarding the West Milford M.U.A. – Bald Eagle Village Public Water System, advising that an update of their Public Water System Deficit /Surplus Table resulted in a deficit of one of its daily, monthly or yearly limits, and no new application for water main extensions or connection permits with associated water demand will be issued. Additionally, until the water deficit is corrected, no new development projects with a water demand at Bald Eagle Village are allowed; only water main repairs and replacements may proceed.
7. Notice dated March 31, 2014, received from McKittrick Engineering Assoc., advising that Vincent Lanza is applying to the NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval for properties at Block 12110; Lots 3.01 and Lot 5.03, located on Inwood Road, to construct septic systems that are not in conformance with NJAC 7:9A et seq.
8. Warning Letter issued by the NJDEP, dated April 28, 2014, regarding Chelsea at Bald Eagle Senior Residences at Cahill Cross Road, Block 5310; Lot 1, advising that there was placement of pavement associated with roadways within 3350 sq. ft. of a freshwater wetland transition area that required prior approval. Owner is advised to take corrective actions by securing a permit for the unauthorized activities at the site and to and contact the NJDEP for discussion.

9. Notice received from the NJDEP, dated April 22, 2014, addressed to the Farm Crest Acres Lake Association regarding the Upper Crest Lake Dam (NJDEP File No. 22-333) and Lower Crest Lake Dam (NJDEP File No. 22-334), advising that, following a review of their Hydrologic & Hydraulic Study submitted by Civil Dynamics, both dams were found to be in POOR condition with maintenance and repairs necessary, and also advising that a Dam Safety Compliance Schedule was due for submission by May 31, 2014.

10. Copy of an Initial Resubmission of a Receptor Evaluation Form, dated April 24, 2014, received from Applied Earth Solutions, regarding Petro-One and Two, 4 Marshall Hill Rd., PI #030159, Case #05-02-14-1252-25, Block 5701; Lot 3, for unknown contamination at the site.

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received/Sent

1. Notice from ANJEC regarding Capital Day on May 30, 2014, from 9:30 to 12:30 at the State House Annex, Trenton, NJ.

2. Notice from the NJDEP regarding the award of \$755,000. in recreational trail grants to various municipalities and organizations in NJ for trail related projects.

3. HEPSCD-Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of a soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated March 11, 2014, received for the Pequannock Residuals Treatment Facility, 2224 Route 23 North, Block 14102; Lot 1.

4. HEPSCD-Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of a soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated March 26, 2014, received for Vitale Westbrook S.F.D., 1060 Westbrook Road, Block 5010; Lot 1.

5. HEPSCD-Hudson Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District certification of a soil erosion and sediment control plan, dated March 6, 2014, received for Lanza Flanders 2-S.F.D., 27 Flanders Road, Block 2708; Lot 1 and Lot 3.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –Clint Smith advised that the Greenwood Lake Commission meets on the 4th Monday; the NY location was at the Senior Citizen Building. He noted that there is an interest in Belcher Creek testing. Chairman Sangle inquired if there was money from the Greenwood Lake Commission to back up any funding that the Commission can acquire with grants for testing, and Mr. Smith replied that he did not believe there were any funds.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the May 5, 2014 meeting was **adjourned** at **9:15 p.m.** on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and a **second** by Chairman Steve Sangle.

Approved: September 8, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary