

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

June 5, 2023

Main Meeting Room

The June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: James Roger (7:15), Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Trainor, Chairman Stephen Sangle, Alternate #1 Mark Lynch.

Absent: Tim Dalton, Jim Lyons, Don Weise

Chairman Sangle appointed Mark Lynch to sit in as a regular member for Jim Lyons.

PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

PB-06-22-03

VEOLIA WATER NEW JERSEY

Block 8902; Lot 3

88 Rolling Ridge Rd.; R-2

Seeking: Minor Site Plan approval to construct a 12'8" x 19'3" (171 SF) addition to the existing Water Treatment Building to house new PFAS treatment equipment [Olde Milford Well 3].

The West Milford Environmental Commission reviewed the above referenced Planning Board application. The Commission advised that there did not appear to be any environmental concerns regarding this application for an addition to an existing water treatment facility.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Greenway Project: Chairman Sangle advised that he was present for the Greenway Subcommittee meeting at 5:30, but Don Weise was the only other member present for a review of the proposed plan. He had a prior appointment and was unable to attend this regular meeting following the subcommittee meeting.

Chairman Sangle noted that Mr. Weise proposes to walk the pipeline area and advise whether the conditions are conducive for a walking trail, or if it requires construction for a trail. He further reported that the easements for the Evergreen Farm site and Lincoln Hill Village have been secured, but the easement for the property adjacent to Shop Rite is still in progress, as well as for a portion of the gas pipeline. It seems that TGP is concerned about any damage to the pipeline, so this will take some consideration on their part.

Mark Lynch inquired about the location of the trail from Lincoln Hill Village, and Chairman Sangle responded that the actual location of the trail would largely be determined by Mr. Weise. He reviewed a map of some of the possible locations with the Commissioners. Doug Trainor volunteered to assist Don Weise with the trail mapping. Chris Garcia had also indicated that he would be assisting with the trail locations, but he suggested that an engineering firm might be better equipped to determine the trail locations. Chairman Sangle stressed that the Greenway Subcommittee, relying on the expertise of Don Weise and the NY/NJ Trail Conference, should determine the trail location, and once the trail location is delineated, the information would be transmitted to the Township Planner. Having the sites physically traversed will determine the feasibility for the trail location. There will be bridges required in certain locations, but the small footbridges need to be marked. With regard to GPS, Chairman Sangle noted that the NY/NJ Trail

Conference advised that the newer cell phones had GPS capability, but the Environmental Commission will be purchasing a hand held unit for the project. [Fishing] waders and orange driveway stakes will also be purchased. Mr. Lynch observed that since the Wallisch property is owned partly by the Board of Ed, there may be some flexibility in getting Highlands or NJDEP approvals for certain aspects of the trails.

Chairman Sangle expressed that the Commission is anxious to get the project moving forward, and get the trail locations set so that it can be passed on to the professionals to complete the project or to advise what can and cannot be done with the trail. When an engineering firm is employed for the official mapping, they may need to make adjustments. He noted that it is possible that the Highlands Council may have funding available for the planning stage that would involve an engineering study for the project. The Commission discussed including a portion of the trail for ADA accessibility, and possible funding for the construction of an ADA trail. Elevations and other factors will need to be considered.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Doug Trainor advised that he did not attend the last several meetings with the GWLC. He will attempt to get his name added on the list to receive their minutes so he can provide a report to the Environmental Commission. He noted that the GWLC Chairman had resigned recently.

Lakes Committee: Jim Rogers was unable to attend the Lakes Committee meeting in May, but he obtained information about the meeting to provide a report. Dave Stires, the Recycling Coordinator for the Township, provided a presentation to the Lakes Committee. He advised them that metal was providing a source of income for the Township and requested that the lake community residents not place metal recyclables in the garbage. The Recycling Center is open on Sat., Sun., Mon. and Wed.

The Lakes Committee also discussed weed and algae management and predicted that this will be a bad season due to the dry conditions. They will review the EAP drill protocols with Ed Steines, DPW Director, which is required of all private lake communities. Marilyn Lichtenburg will provide an update on septic pumping at the next meeting in June. Also noted at the meeting concerning short term rentals, any issues or regulations in the lake communities should be addressed within the organizations' individual by-laws and can also be directed to the Township.

Open Space Committee: Don Weise was unable to attend this meeting and there was no updated report on open space matters.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Commissioner Tom Tamayne reported that he received 7 notices regarding contamination issues. He noted that he received an administrative consent for treatment upgrades for Veolia, and observed that the discharge limits are more relaxed than what they had required previously. He believed that the concentration limits were most likely lower than what had been permitted to allow for repairs/renovations and upgrades to the facilities to be completed.

Shade Tree Committee: No update at this time.

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

Environmental Boardwalk: Commissioner Tom Tamayne inquired about having the phragmyties treatment continue this year. The Commission's Secretary advised that the purchase order was prepared, but the vendor (Lake Management Sciences) had exceeded the 17,500. annual contract limit for the Township with all the other sites that he treats (Bubbling Springs, Nosenzo Pond, etc). A resolution will be on the next Twp. Council agenda for approval to exceed the limit since this vendor is a member of the Bergen County Co-op. If that were not the case, we would have to obtain 3 quotes from vendors for the work that is required for the phragmitie treatments.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Tree Removal Ordinances: Commissioner Jim Rogers reported that the draft tree removal ordinance amendments are not ready to be sent to Administration and the Governing Body. The new NJ stormwater management plan has been released and it includes tree replacement guidelines in their regulations, as well as the recommended tree caliper of 6". He further noted that the State has prepared a model tree removal and replacement ordinance that must be reviewed to insure that West Milford's new amended ordinance complies with the State. Mark Lynch commented that he would get a copy of the Denville Tree removal ordinance, and Mr. Rogers remarked that ordinances from several adjacent and similar towns were reviewed and considered when drafting the new amendments.

MINUTES

The minutes from the May 1, 2023 Environmental Commission meeting were unanimously **approved** on a **motion** by Chairman Stephen Sangle and a **second** by Jim Rogers.

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. NJUCF News and Updates 06-01-23 – NJUCF Stewardship Grant, Community Stewardship Field Workshop, Urban Forest Mgt & Storms Survey.
2. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge notice, dated May 25, 2023, regarding a reported spill from a vehicle.
3. Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge notice, dated May 11, 2023, regarding the removal of a 275 AG #2 HO tank that was leaking; clean-up is pending.
4. Notification from Envirotrac, dated May 1, 2023, regarding Groundwater Remedial Action Protectiveness Biennial Certification for the former Getty Service Station #56009, 2048 Rt. 23 N, PI #001649, NJDEP Case#11-12-28-1610-53.
5. Surface Water GPA Renewal – BPW-Potable Water Treatment Plant, NJDES Permit No. NJG0063711 for the Pequannock Water Treatment Plant.

Miscellaneous

1. ANJEC Climate Mini-Series 2023 Webinar: 05/31/23, 06/20/23, 7 pm.
2. New Jersey Forestry Association – June 2, 2023 – Tree Farm Day at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the June 5, 2023 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:10 p.m. on a **motion** by Tom Tamayne with a **second** by Mark Lynch.

Approved: August 7, 2023

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary