

**Township of West Milford  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**October 6, 2014**

The October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Andrew Abdul (7:42), Gary Oppenheimer, Douglas Ott, Thomas Tamayne, Don Weise, Alternate #1 Jennifer Easterbrook, Alternate #2 Lucas Slott, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

**Absent:** Tim Dalton.

**Also Present:** Dave Ofshinsky.

Chairman Stephen Sangle requested Luke Slott and Jennifer Easterbrook to sit in for Andy Abdul and Tim Dalton, who was absent. He 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 reported that Dr. Fred Lubnow had advised that the 319(h) Grant Report had been accepted by the NJDEP.

**NJDEP Green Comm. \$3000.00 Grant for Community Forestry Management Plan:** Chairman Sangle reported that Ron Farr was not present to provide an update on this project, but a revised final copy of the CFMP needs to be signed by Township Administration and submitted to the State for review and approval.

**NJDEP NNL Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00:** No update at this time.

**Trails Master Plan:** Doug Ott reported that he would contact Banisch Associates for three final revised copies of the Trails Master Plan for signatures by Township Administration prior to submission to ANJEC.

**ON GOING BUSINESS**

**Lakes Committee:** Andy Abdul reported that the Lakes Committee members discussed emergency preparedness at the recent Lakes Committee meeting.

**Greenwood Lake Commission:** Mr. Abdul advised that he was unable to attend the recent Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission meeting. Chairman Sangle requested Mr. Abdul to inquire at their next meeting if there are any proposed water testing projects being considered in or around the lake, including Belchers Creek, to determine potential contaminant sources.

**Open Space Committee:** Chairman Sangle reported that the Township and/or Land Conservancy were still negotiating with the owners of the properties in the center of the Weaver Road property. He also reported that there was another property at a different location proposed for open space acquisition, but the owner wanted too much money for the parcel. He noted that the property cannot be developed, and the owners were paying approximately \$16,000. in taxes, so this parcel shouldn't be considered for removal from the tax rolls at this time.

**Environmental Contamination Issues:** Tom Tamayne received copies of No Further Action letters and several permit requests to the NJDEP for LOI's with regard to disturbing wetlands. The Commission noted #7 under Correspondence for the Grace Fellowship Church regarding an application for an LOI for the purpose of installing a driveway from Union Valley Road to the church.

**Green Team-Sustainable Subcommittee:** Jennifer Easterbrook, Green Team/Sustainability Subcommittee Chair reported that the recent Green Team meeting went well, and she reviewed several of the items that may not be attainable for Silver Certification with the Sustainable Jersey program. The

main item required, but not achieved for this round of re-certification, was the adoption of the sustainable land use pledge. She reported on the items that were achieved, including the companion animals and wildlife protection resolutions and the environmental information pamphlet. Ms. Easterbrook noted that there was quite a bit of information available for distribution at the Autumn Lights Festival, and the Green Team was working on a banner for the Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign. She reported that the Green Team discussed their goals for 2015 and possible grants that they will focus toward. The Commission's Secretary advised that the sustainable land use pledge was reviewed but not endorsed by the Planning Board, and its adoption was not recommended by the Board Attorney. Chairman Sangle commented that it was a legal issue involving the language of the proposed resolution. Ms. Easterbrook observed that we could move forward with the other action items and receive Bronze Certification for this renewal cycle. The Commission discussed a recreational trails grant being offered by the NJDEP and noted that there may be some trail implementations that can be achieved that were included in the Trails Master Plan. Tom Tamayne noted that Sustainable Jersey was offering grants in the amount of \$10,000. for renewable energy technology. Luke Slott inquired whether the new Library was planning on installing solar panels, and Doug Ott responded that this had not been decided. Chairman Sangle inquired whether the Environmental Commission would have the opportunity to review the proposed new library plans, and that the Commission may have an opportunity to apply for a grant to help them with certain environmental aspects of the project. Mr. Ott responded that he would look into getting a copy of the plans for the Commission.

**Beaver Dam at Environmental Boardwalk:** Chairman Sangle provided an update on the beaver dam at the Environmental Boardwalk based on information from Bob Jonas, who reported that the beavers have returned, but the water level around the boardwalk is still at a good height. Mr. Jonas suggested the Commission consider whether they want to issue a request for trapping during the winter months, or install a beaver baffle. He retrieved the piping that was previously installed, but it may not be usable. Chairman Sangle commented that the Commission might want to consider both trapping in November – December, and installing a baffle system, adding that the trapping may provide ample time to construct an effective baffle. Gary Oppenheimer noted that he would not be able to get to the site until November, and Luke Slott stated that he would check the dam in the next two weeks. Mr. Tamayne cautioned there was a low point on the Boardwalk. The Commissioners discussed raising the low section of the Boardwalk, performing test borings to check for rock. Don Weise advised that the Pochuck Boardwalk is located in a wetlands area, and was repaired by the NY/NJ Trail Conference, suggesting that the Commission contact them about repairing the Boardwalk at the low sections. Chairman Sangle suggested that Bob Jonas should make the determination regarding trapping and beaver baffle installation at the site.

## **NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS**

**Bear Education Presentation:** Chairman Sangle reported that the recent Bear Education presentation at Town Hall was very educational, and the DEP representatives were extremely knowledgeable. He observed that there was very interesting information provided, including the fact that bears need to consume approximately 25000 calories per day to store fat for the winter months. He requested pamphlets from the DEP representatives for distribution at Autumn Lights Festival. He noted that the presentation included a slide show, and the experts explained the bear management program from a biological aspect. Chairman Sangle also noted that there was not much dissention regarding bear hunts, and the audience realized that there were few options for controlling bear encounters. It was suggested at the presentation that the bear hunt may be extended or commenced earlier when the bears are still active, and the DEP representatives explained the formula for determining the number of bears to be culled each season. Don Weise observed that the statistics regarding the number of bears killed has gone down, and it may be that the overall population may be decreasing. Tom Tamayne observed that Pennsylvania was not permitting bear hunting this year, so the number of permits may be up in New Jersey. Chairman Sangle reviewed the types of bear incidents and the recommended course of action: observing a bear, observing a bear going into the garbage, and observing a bear going into a house. In all instances, the local Police or DEP can be contacted. He noted that he used to call each time a bear was spotted, but suggested that the

DEP website have a procedure for reporting bear encounters. The Commission continued to discuss recent bear incidents, the bear hunt, and the various issues that make this a difficult and complex matter.

**2014 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Nominations:** No update was available – the nomination was submitted to the State. Notifications may be available in November or December.

**NJ Shade Tree Conference:** The Commission discussed sending one of the Commissioners for the October 24 or 25 Shade Tree Conference.

**Autumn Lights Festival:** Jennifer Easterbrook advised that, to date, all the preparations have been made for the upcoming fall festival. There will be information available to the public on bears, Sustainable Jersey initiatives, invasive aquatic species, and the Trail Conference will have maps available for purchase. Tim Dalton and several members of the Green Team will be present with Ms. Easterbrook for the all-day event. Andy Abdul noted that he would share his time between the Association for Special Children table and the Environmental Commission/Green Team table.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes for June 2, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting were **unanimously approved** on a **motion** by Luke Slott, with a **second** by Doug Ott.

## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

*The following correspondence was reviewed by the Environmental Commission and filed:*

### **Highlands Water Protection And Planning Act Correspondence**

1. Highlands Exemption #4, Water Quality Management Plan–Consistent, dated September 25, 2014, received from the NJDEP for Greenwood Lake Marine Supply, Elena Dykstra, 538 Lakeside Road LLC, for property at 1141 Greenwood Lake Turnpike, regarding a proposed marine supply facility project.

### **NJ Department Of Environmental Protection Correspondence**

1. Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation/Line Verification Extension, dated September 10, 2014, received from the NJDEP for Jonathon Frank, Shiloh Bible Camp, 753 Burnt Meadow Road, Block 6002; Lot 47, with regard to wetlands delineation, extending the L.OI. to April 21, 2019.

2. Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation/Line Verification Extension, dated September 11, 2014, received for Donald Davies, 70 Rockburn Pass, Block 5003; Lot 9, advising that the wetlands value classification is Exceptional and require a 150 ft. buffer. A Highlands Exemption has been issued for a proposed single-family residential dwelling.

3. No Further Action letter from the NJDEP, dated September 9, 2014, regarding 684 Lake Shore Drive, Block 1810; Lot 11, for removal of a 275 gal #2 H.O. AGST.

4. Remedial Action Report – Notice of Deficiency, dated September 15, 2014 received from the NJDEP regarding 65 White Road, Block 6902; Lot 10, regarding failure to implement interim remedial measures to remove, contain, or stabilize a source of contamination to prevent contaminant migration.

5. Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #18, dated September 8, 2014, received from the NJDEP for Vacamas Youth Program, 256 Macopin Road, Block 12501; Lot 41.01, regarding temporary disturbance of wetlands for the rehabilitation of the existing Henion Pond Dam (NJDEP #22-18).

6. Freshwater Wetlands Transition Area Averaging Plan, dated September 8, 2014, received from the NJDEP for Chelsea Senior Residences, Block 5310; Lot 1, regarding the addition to an existing senior assisted living facility building, concrete sidewalks, concrete patio area, creating wall and grass pavers for emergency vehicle parking.

7. Notice of an application to the NJDEP, dated October 1, 2014, from LAN Associates, regarding Grace Fellowship Church, 37 Stephens Road, Block 9801; Lot 1, for a Wetlands Footprint of Disturbance Letter of Interpretation, for the proposed construction of a new driveway and maintenance garage.

### **Miscellaneous Correspondence Received/Sent**

1. Passaic County Heritage Tourism Meeting, October 21, 2014, 6 – 8 pm at West Milford Town Hall, providing an overview of Passaic County’s Heritage Tourism Plan and Tourism Economics, RSVP–giancarlo@passaiccountynj.org.
2. Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program Announcement – Applications due November 5, 2014.
3. Ordinance # 2014-007 – Ordinance of the Township of West Milford, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey to Amend Chapter 500, “Zoning”, Article III, “Residential Districts” Section §500-13, “Sewer and Water Facilities” of the Township Code – adopted on September 17, 2014.
4. Notice from the Borough of Ringwood advising of a public meeting with Passaic County regarding the Route 511 & Skyline Drive Intersection Improvement Program. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:30 pm at the Martin J. Ryerson Middle School, 130 Valley Road, Ringwood, NJ.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – One of the Commissioners commented that he heard that the there was a proposal to install a circle at the bottom of Skyline Drive.

Dave Ofshinsky, member of the M.U.A., commented that he would try to keep the lines of communication open between the MUA and the Environmental Commission. With regard to concerns about the elevated [ammonia] levels near the Community Garden at Apple Acres, he believes that the MUA has addressed the problem with the Crescent Park plant. Chairman Sangle requested that Mr. Ofshinsky touch base with Dave Hallowell regarding the Community Garden near the site.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the October 6, 2014 meeting was **adjourned** at **8:53 p.m.** on a **motion** by Chairman Sangle and a **second** by Don Weise.

Approved: April 6, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary