

**Township of West Milford  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**December 8, 2014**

The December 8, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. with a reading of the Legal Notice.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Andrew Abdul (7:46), Tim Dalton, Thomas Tamayne, Douglas Ott, Alternate #1 Jennifer Easterbrook, Alternate #2 Lucas Slott, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

**Absent:** Gary Oppenheimer, Don Weise.

**Also Present:** Ronald Farr, Robert Jonas, Dave Ofshinsky.

Luke Slott and Jennifer Easterbrook were requested to sit in for the absent Commissioners. Chairman Sangle advised that a quorum was present to conduct this meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS** - None.

**APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW**

**DAVID & MICHELLE NICOL**

**Bulk Variance #ZB-10-14-10**

Block 12210; Lot 7

8 Wildwood Street; LR Zone

**Seeking:** Bulk Variance for a rear yard setback, where 60 ft is required, 34.20 ft exists, and 20.20 ft is proposed, for the construction of an addition to an existing single-family residence that will include a family room and larger second bedroom. This matter is scheduled for a Board of Adjustment hearing on December 16, 2014.

The Environmental Commission members reviewed the Zoning Board of Adjustment application for a bulk variance for the construction of an addition to an existing single family home. Following review, the Commission inquired how the additional stormwater runoff from the increased impervious coverage would be addressed, and suggested installation of gutters, leaders and rain barrels. The Commission suggested that the applicant consider any adverse effects to the neighboring property owners when installing any additional lighting on the addition.

**GRANT MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW**

**NJDEP Green Comm. \$3000.00 Grant for Community Forestry Management Plan:** Ron Farr, Forestry Consultant, was present to provide an update to the Commission, advising that the CFMP had been revised prior to it being sent to the Mayor and Council.

**NJDEP NNL Reforestation Grant - \$620,197.00:** Mr. Farr, advised that before funds are released for the tree purchase and planting, the CFMP must be approved by the Township and submitted. Chairman Sangle noted that the forestry subcommittee should meet and provide a draft of the proposals for trees. He also reported that he and Tom Tamayne had met with the BOE Administrator and Maintenance director, and they were on board with the trees plantings on school property, which would be used as an educational tool, although further details were needed regarding locations, etc. Tom Tamayne commented that he intended to get involved in getting solar panels for the schools through a grant, and he needed to know the location of the tree plantings so that shade is not an issue. Chairman Sangle reviewed some of the other locations that are proposed for tree plantings including Township ballfields, Bubbling Springs, the Town Center streetscape, Veterans Park, the new Library, the Township Museum and Town Hall. Doug Ott inquired if our landscape architect was needed for a planting plan. Mr. Farr replied that it was not necessary. Chairman Sangle impressed that the public has made inquiries about the tree plantings, and Mr. Farr noted that the Spring 2015 was the anticipated time for getting bids. Bob Jonas commented that Lisa Simms from the NJ Tree Foundation is a good source for tree plantings, although he thought they may only focus on urban areas. Mr. Farr noted that the NJ Tree Foundation bid on projects for tree planting, and they plant trees is many

different areas. The RFP's need to be prepared and sent out, and a meeting is required also with the Board of Education.

## **ON GOING BUSINESS**

**Lakes Committee:** Andy Abdul distributed the November 2014 Lakes Committee minutes. He noted that a large portion of the meeting was devoted to recycling issues discussed by the Recycling Coordinator, Dave Stires. He reported that the Lakes Committee also discussed insurance for the lakes, and they have requested that the Health Officer attend one of their meetings to discuss the septic pumping ordinance.

**Greenwood Lake Commission:** Mr. Abdul advised that the GWL Commission discussed various lake issues, with an emphasis on the septic pumping ordinance being complied with, especially for the homes surrounding the lake and waterways feeding into Greenwood Lake. Chairman Sangle noted that the most important aspect is accurate data, and then notification can be sent once the data is compiled into a report. He did not feel that the Health Dept. was providing the proper notification to homeowners with regard to septic pumping requirements. The Commission discussed various ways to efficiently implement the program, and Mr. Abdul advised that the GWL Commission had offered to send staff to the West Milford Health Dept. to assist with the program. Tom Tamayne agreed to make an inquiry regarding this prior to meeting with the Health Officer. Mr. Ott noted that he would also like to meet with the Health Officer regarding wells

**Open Space Committee:** Chairman Sangle advised that he had not heard anything recently regarding the Weaver Road property, and assumed that the respective parties were trying to negotiate on the interior parcels. He would email Linda Glosinski of the Land Conservancy again regarding this matter.

**Environmental Contamination Issues:** Tom Tamyane reported that he received several NJDEP No Further Action Letters from the Health Dept., and has not been meeting with the Health Officer, but has been communicating through emails. The Commission requested that the Secretary send a memo to the Township Administrator to advise that Tom Tamayne and Doug Ott are requesting to meet with the Township Health Officer regarding septic ordinance issues.

**Green Team–Sustainable Subcommittee:** Jennifer Easterbrook, Green Team/Sustainability Subcommittee Chair reported that she attended the luncheon in Atlantic City in November honor of the Sustainable Jersey recipients. She did not, however, receive a plaque to replace the original plaque that was presented by former Green Team Chair, Renee Alessio, to the Township at a Council meeting in 2011, following the Township's initial Sustainable Jersey certification. The plaque was subsequently misplaced. Chairman Sangle was not aware that a plaque had been presented to the Township and requested that if we receive a replacement, that it be brought to an Environmental Commission meeting. Ms Easterbrook reported that she received pins for the Green Team members and suggested that they attend the next Commission meeting to receive their pins. She also reported that there were 3 new members on the Green Team/Sustainability Subcommittee and she would invite them to attend the next EC meeting. With regard to the grant from Sustainable Jersey, she advised that there were funds remaining and they would be used to purchase new tote bags and pamphlets for the Autumn Lights Festival/Green Fest. Chairman Sangle requested that all new members be introduced to the Environmental Commission since the subcommittee is under the Commission. In addition, a list of the members should be provided to the Secretary for the Township file.

Ms. Easterbrook continued to report on goals for the following year, including proceeding with the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, invasive species, water sampling at Belchers Creek, a solar project at the local schools, and a Green Fest during Autumn Lights. She advised that the Green Team would not be applying for grants in 2015, but would be preparing grant ready projects for funding in 2016.

**Beaver Dam at Environmental Boardwalk:** Bob Jonas reported that the beavers have not left, and that he has pipes in place, but it is only about 70% effective, adding that this matter is between the beaver and him, and he will continue to work on something to avoid trapping.

## **NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS**

**2014 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Nominations:** Chairman Sangle read the letter from the NJDEP regarding the winners of the award, and advised that neither the West Milford Environmental Commission, nor he, were chosen for the award for 2014.

**Council Request – Summary, Resolution and/or Recommendation on Fracking:** Following a discussion on the request from the Township Council, the Commission's Secretary was requested to send a memo to the Township Administrator to advise that they were not aware of any recent meeting on fracking that was held in Kinnelon, NJ, and no one from the Commission was in attendance at a public meeting where fracking or the Pilgrim Pipeline was discussed, and further clarification was needed before the Commission would be able to comment on this matter.

**Septic Ordinance – Belchers Creek Testing:** Chairman Sangle reported that Commissioners Doug Ott and Tom Tamayne have requested a meeting with the Health Officer to review the septic ordinance, as well as testing of Belchers Creek in conjunction with the MUA and the GWL Commission.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes for the August 4, 2015 Environmental Commission meeting were not available at this meeting for approval.

## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

*The following correspondence was reviewed by the Environmental Commission, with no comments, and filed:*

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

1. Copy of a Highlands Preservation Area Approval with Health and Safety Waiver Pre-Cancellation Letter, dated October 29, 2014, for Passaic Valley Water Commission, regarding the Water Main Project for the Village on Ridge project.

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

1. Notification from LAN Associates, received November 17, 2014, via CD, including NJDEP PA/SI Form, Case Inventory Document with Site Map, Preliminary Assessment Report.
2. Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #8 with conditions, dated November 14, 2014, received from the NJDEP regarding a proposed 494 sq ft garage addition for Steven Barkley at 280 Weaver Road, Block 12402; Lot 5.
3. Notice from Houser Engineering, dated November 25, 2014, advising of an application being submitted to the NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval (TWA) for Lobosco, Vine Avenue and Ridge Road, Block 5603; Lots 2.01 and 2.02, regarding the construction of a individual subsurface sewage disposal system.
4. NJDEP News dated November 28, 2014 advising of a DEP crackdown to combat illegal dumping on state lands as part of the "Don't Waste Our Open Space" including recent enforcement action at the following sites: DOD Wildlife Management Area in Salem County for illegal solid waste disposal including hazardous household waste; construction debris at the Assunpink W.M.A. in Monmouth County; illegal dumping of construction and household debris at Colliers Mills W.M.A. in Jackson, Ocean County; illegal construction debris dumping at Makepeace W.M.A. in Hammonton, NJ; construction debris at Port Republic W.M.A. in Atlantic County.
5. Notice received from Charlie Aikey, dated November 29, 2014, advising of a re-submission of a Treatment Works Approval application for Block 9501; Lot 19.02, 144 Wesley Drive.

6. Notification from The Environmental Group, dated December 1, 2014, regarding ESCO Products at 171 Oak Ridge Road, Block 15901; Lot 7, with attached copy of a General Information Notice to the NJDEP regarding a cessation of operations for the existing eyeglass lens manufacturing.

7. No Further Action and Covenant Not To Sue letter received from the NJDEP, dated November 26, 2014, regarding the removal of a 550 gal #2 Heating Oil U.G.S.T. at 13 Post Place, Block 15401; Lot 49.

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

1. Notification from the County of Passaic, dated November 5, 2014, advising that an executed copy of the deed for road widening must be received for the proposed West Milford Library. The Deed, Title Policy and Affidavit of Consideration must be submitted for review and filing before the site plan will be considered for unconditional approval. Following receipt of unconditional approval, a right of way access permit application must be submitted, as well as bonds posted for work that will be in the County ROW.

2. Notification from the NJDOT, dated November 24, 2014, advising of the Passaic County Complete Streets Planning and Design Training Workshop to be held for municipal staff on December 19, 2014.

3. Pequannock Post – Volume 19, Issue 6, December 2014.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the November 3, 2014 meeting was **adjourned** at **8:59 p.m.** on a **motion** by Tim Dalton and a **second** by Andy Abdul.

Approved: May 4, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary