

**Township of West Milford
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

December 13, 2021

Main Meeting Room

The December 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Township of West Milford Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Stephen Sangle beginning at 7:00 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

Present: Janet Little, David Ofshinsky, James Rogers, Thomas Tamayne (7:21), Douglas Trainor (7:26), Don Weise, Chairman Stephen Sangle.

Absent: None.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

SCOTT & JEANNINE MOONEY

Bulk Variance # ZB-10-21-19

Block 7801; Lot 63

15 Beacon Hill Road; R-1 Zone

Seeking: Bulk variance approval for a side yard setback where 15 ft is required, 21.5 ft exists, and 10 ft is proposed for a one-car garage addition with storage room above.

Subsequent to a review of the above referenced application, the Commission made the comments below:

- The Commission recommended leaders and gutters to be installed to address additional stormwater runoff from the garage addition.
- In addition to the leaders and gutters, the Commission suggested that the applicant consider the use of a rain barrel for collection of the roof runoff.
- The Commission noted that any additional lighting to be installed should not adversely affect adjacent properties.

Application to the NJDEP Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste:

SKYTOP RECYCLING, INC.

Block 6002; Lot 34

Proposing to modify their Class B General approval regarding materials to be accepted and location and stockpile areas for their source separated Class B recycling center at their 770 tpd facility. The modification also includes a 99 ton per day transfer station (TS/MRF) to occur mainly in the building and not affect the Class B Recycling operation.

Subsequent to a review of the above referenced application, the Commission made the following comments:

- The Commission expressed concern about the runoff on the down grade. They noted that the property slopes to the east side and there will be run-off from the site as stormwater filters through the debris at the site.

- The Commission noted that the recycling facility would be accepting concrete, brick, brush trees, and non hazardous soil, and would no longer accepting asphalt, roofing and sheetrock from the notice sent to the Township.

ON GOING BUSINESS

Belchers Creek Testing: Jim Rogers distributed photos of Belchers Creek with Greenwood Lake undergoing a lake lowering period. He noted how shallow the lake was on the New Jersey side of the bi-state lake. It is estimated that the lake was lowered by 5 feet. The Commission discussed purchasing new updated equipment for testing nitrates and phosphates, and all concurred that the new equipment should be purchased when the new budget is approved. The Administrator requested quotes for the equipment, which have been obtained from Hanna Instruments, for a total of \$478.00.

Community Forestry Mgt. Plan: AAR - Annual Accomplish Report–CEU’s required for 2020 & 21 – No update on this matter.

NNL Reforestation Grant: Chairman Sangle advised that the Administrator had requested a list of the new trees that needed to be purchased to replace the trees that did not survive. Additionally, a list of the locations of the trees to plant and the species was also requested. As a result of the survey completed by the Commissioners, 56 trees were determined to be needed as replacements for the dead trees. Jim Rogers recommended that the trees should be planted in the areas that they will be most aesthetically pleasing and more visible to the public. Janet Little suggested that limiting the variation of the species and purchasing more of a few species would be most cost effective. Mr. Rogers noted that purchasing the trees for spring planting would be the best option. He will coordinate with Janet and Tim Dalton on this and then forward the information to the Administration. He further commented that former Commissioner Tim Dalton had recommended that the Township contract with a certified forester to help with making the correct purchases and determining the most effective planting locations. Chairman Sangle remarked that it was in the hands of Administration and it was their decision to move forward on this to close out the project. It was noted that baskets, soil, mulch and ties were also some of the items required for the tree planting.

Greenwood Lake Bi-State Commission: Janet Little advised that the most recent meeting of the GWLC was held on November 17, 2021 and they had observed that the lake was down by 2.5, but their goal was for it to be lowered by 5 feet. It is currently down 5 feet. The Bi-State Commission reviewed NJDEP permits required for the homeowners for dock repairs. They also noted that there is an on-line boating course on the GWLC website. Tom Tamayne commented that the test may be taken on-line, with attendance for an in-person session. Ms. Little reported that the homeowners next to Brown’s Point were concerned about the danger created by the trees in the water from a recent storm (microburst). Mr. Rogers remarked that he did not see any downed trees lying in the water when he went to Browns Point.

Ms. Little reported that the dock numbering project is ongoing, and the intention is for the GWLC to create a map of the docks to keep track of them. She noted that the GWLC have estimated operating expenses of \$53,000, and although grant money is available, the documentation to receive the grant monies is extensive. Guests attending the recent GWLC meeting were representatives from Montclair State University who reviewed their testing protocols for Belchers Creek and Greenwood Lake as part of their ongoing sampling in the area. Of all the comments expressed at the GWLC meeting, Ms. Little did not believe that the readings were too concerning. She also noted that Princeton Hydro attends most of the GWLC meetings.

Lakes Committee: Jim Rogers reported that he was requested to take the minutes for the Lakes Committee at a recent meeting. The most recent meeting was held on November 15, and there will be no more meetings until March 2022. He prepared a campaign for “Adopt a Storm Drain” and requested the Lakes Committee to get the message out to their members to assist in keeping the storm drains clear of debris. The Lakes Committee discussed the 10 million in state grants to deal with HABs, and the question arose whether private lake communities qualified for funding. The Lakes Committee will contact the NJ Lakes Association and inquire about funding eligibility. Mr. Rogers also reported that a representative of the Engineering Dept., Chuck Carbone, sent out a reminder regarding the road milling and paving that will be occurring in the Township.

Chairman Sangle observed that he had suggested in the past, and was again suggesting now, that volunteers could be organized to number the storm drains in the Township to help identify the drains in the event of a problem. He noted that there are approximately 4000 storm drains in the Township, but starting in one location and proceeding through the Township would eventually accomplish the project. The Commission discussed the filters on the storm drains, and Doug Trainor noted that at Bald Eagle Village, hay bales are placed on the drains to catch the debris.

Open Space Committee: Don Weise reported that he and Chairman Sangle met with The Land Conservancy regarding the Greenway Plan and also to investigate the option of installing electric charging stations at the trailheads. The electric charging stations is not something that TLC becomes involved with. As for the Greenway Plan, they are trying to coordinate the connection of the sites along Belchers Creek and through the land along a proposed route. A plan must be prepared and discussions must take place with landowners for the creation of a sidewalk plan for small connections if one continuous route is not possible. Mr. Weise noted that Union Valley has been re-paved to Bearfort Road, so this is an option for a walkable area. Easements will be necessary, and this is a problem that had been encountered years ago when this type of project was first explored. He also noted that there are wetlands throughout the area, and approval of a boardwalk would be difficult, but that would be the most feasible choice. Chairman Sangle commented that there were issues by the former horse farm, but if the new owner was applying for permits or approval to develop the site, sidewalks would be required as part of the streetscape plan. The Commission discussed various options and the liability and maintenance required with sidewalks being installed. Mr. Weise commented that a bike path might be an option. Chairman Sangle noted that since this is the town center, sidewalks would be optimal.

Chairman Sangle stated that The Land Conservancy will prepare a feasibility study and submit a proposal for their services. The Commission concurred that the project can be completed in small increments, adding that they need to be realistic about the extent of the project and it may be best to concentrate on certain areas.

Environmental Contamination Issues: Tom Tamayne reviewed the environmental contamination notices received by the Commission.

Green Team–Sustainability Committee: This item should be removed from the agenda per a consensus of the Commission.

Environmental Boardwalk: Tom Tamayne reported that Maryellen Gabay, former Commissioner, suggested that he contact [HEP] Soil Conservation regarding removal of the phragmites, but they said it is not their jurisdiction, and suggested that he contact the NJDEP. The phragmites may have to be removed mechanically and the area maintained with some sort of herbicide treatment.

NEW OR CURRENT BUSINESS

Electric Vehicle Ordinance – The Commission discussed installation of charging stations at the trailheads and noted that a power source would be needed, as well as permits for the installation. Chairman Sangle noted that if there are parcels of land near the trails, the Commission can make recommendations to the Township to purchase the land for this purpose.

Adopt a Storm Drain Initiative – Jim Rogers provided an update to the Adopt A Storm Drain initiative. The information has been included on the website and several groups have been asked to encourage residents to keep the storm drains clear of debris near their residences. The D.P.W. has approved the initiative.

Tilcon Purchase of Block 8002; Lot 5 – Reflection Lakes: Linda Glosinsky of TLC advised that Tilcon had purchased the former Reflection Lakes property. The Commission discussed some possible proposals for the site and expressed concern if it is to become a sand and gravel pit since it is so close to Belchers Creek.

2022 Meeting Dates – The 2022 meeting dates were reviewed and approved by the Commission.

MINUTES

The minutes from the November 1, 2021 Environmental Commission meeting would be available for approval at the next meeting.

The following correspondence items were reviewed by the Commission:

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Correspondence

1. Notification from Price, Meese, Shulman and Darminio, dated Nov. 8, 2021, advising that an application is being made to the NJDEP for a Highlands Applicability Determination in connection with modification to an existing wireless telecommunications facility proposed by T-Mobile Northeast LLC at Greenwood Lake Tpk. and East Shore Road, Block 4601; Lot 22 (Anoll). The proposed modifications are within the existing compound.
2. Highlands Applicability Determination, Exemption #4, Water Quality Management Plan – Consistent, received from the NJDEP, dated Nov. 8, 2021, regarding B&B Organic Waste Recycling LLC 11for property at 280 Marshall Hill Road, Block 6002; Lot 29.
3. Notification from Kleinfelder Engineering, dated Nov. 5, 2021, advising that an application is being submitted for a Highlands Applicability Determination, Exemption #11, for Rockland Electric Co. (RECO) regarding an underground Transmission Circuit proposed for 960 Burnt Meadow Road, Block 4601; Lot 17 with respect to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Compressor Station.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Correspondence

1. Notice from Suez Water New Jersey (CP Engineers) dated Nov. 17, 2021 advising that an application has been submitted for a NJDEP Treatment Works Approval (TWA) to advance the Olde Milford Wastewater Treatment Facility – Clarifier Project, retrofitting an existing traveling bridge clarifier to a chain and flight clarifier and expand the clarifier tank to include a sludge hopper. Tilting scum collectors will be installed on both existing clarifiers.

2. Notice from Schwanewede-Hals Engineering, dated Nov. 18, 2021, regarding Moosehead Marian, 254 & 263 Lakeside Road, Block 3201; Lot 6 and Block 3202; Lot 6, advising that an application is being submitted for a Treatment Works Approval from the NJDEP for Lakeside Glendale LLC for the installation of toilet facilities in two of the existing buildings on the properties with new septic tanks for each building and effluent to be pumped to existing septic system.
3. Notice from the NJDEP, dated Nov. 16, 2021, regarding an application made for a Solid Waste Facility Permit – Initial Permit – for Skytop Recycling, Inc., Block 6002; Lot 34, 80 Airport Road, including a proposal to accept and process up to 99 tons per day of solid waste Types ID 13 and 13C. Comment period ends on Dec. 16, 2021.
4. Suspected hazardous discharge notification, dated November 20, 2021, for 5 Grandview Lane, Block 7207; Lot 9, regarding the removal of one 550 gal UST, with clean up pending.
5. Notification from the NJDEP, dated November 30, 2021, confirming the withdrawal of an application for a FW GP #1 for Maintenance/Repair of Existing Features regarding the Stowaway Road bridge, Block 7503; Lots 6 & 8.
6. Notice of Deficiency from the NJDEP, dated November 29, 2021, to Gordon Onembo regarding a Remedial Action Report (RAR), SRP PI#481893, for 65 White Road, Block 6902; Lot 10, advising that further investigation and possible remediation are required to close this case as outlined in the NJDEP's correspondence dated August 17, 2010 and September 15, 2014. Owner is required to delineate the horizontal and vertical limits of contamination to the applicable unrestricted use remediation standards for all media. If unrestricted use remediation standards are not achieved for all media then a Remediation Action Workplan (RAW) should be proposed, with the required investigation and addendum to the RAR submitted within 60 days of receipt of this notice.

Miscellaneous

1. ANJEC notifications, newsletters.
2. NY-NJ Trail Conference Newsletter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sangle noted that the next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2022. Janet Little advised that she was resigning from the Commission due to several other commitments. The Commissioners thanked her for her services, assistance and dedication to the Commission during her tenure. With no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, the December 13, 2021 regular meeting was **adjourned** at 8:40 p.m. on a **motion** by Chairman Stephen Sangle and a **second** by Tom Tamayne.

Approved: January 10, 2022

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary