

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey and via remote video conference, was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Sally Coda
Mike Devaney
Jack Pfister
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf
Megan Charles, Alternate I (remote; joined at 7:06 p.m.)
Gary Montroy, Alternate II (remote)

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Ward Donigian, Council Liaison
Victoria Galow

The minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2023 were approved following a motion by Coda; seconded by Pfister. Seibert abstained. All other present members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Session

Devaney made a motion to open the meeting to the public; seconded by Charles. All in favor.

Mahwah resident John Fesen asked what the Environmental Commission's top two priorities are for this year. Members discussed.

Leslie Carter, joining remotely, spoke about the deer infestation around town. She asked the Commission to consider setting up a wildlife control plan. Members discussed continuing the debate on this issue moving forward.

Pfister made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Devaney. All in favor.

Planning & Zoning Procedures

The Commission had a discussion about steep slopes, which are covered under Section 28-2.4b(6). The municipal code indicates proposed slopes and lateral supports shall be not more than one foot vertical to four feet horizontal (1V:4H). We will include a new topic at the first meeting of each month. Next month we will discuss Property Maintenance.

SITE PLAN APPLICATIONS

Ramsey Auto Group, 608 N. Central Avenue, Block 140, Lots 2 & 3, Dkt #629

The Environmental Commission reviewed a site plan application for a preliminary and final site plan with a minor subdivision and soil movement permit application.

Comments to Administrative Officer

This review is being deferred to get further information on the status of remediation on the site and the potential impact any construction may have on disturbing the site, especially given the close proximity of the local brook that feeds the water supply.

This application review was deferred pending further clarification following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Pfister. All other members voted in favor of the deferral.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

None received

TENANT APPLICATIONS

None received

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from Donohue Engineering regarding a Flood Hazard Area Verification & Flood Hazard General Permit #5 for 147 Catherine Avenue
- Letter from EcolSciences, Inc. regarding an application for a letter of interpretation to verify the delineated limits of wetlands at Block 139, Lot 25Q
- Letter from EcolSciences, Inc. regarding an application for a letter of interpretation to verify the delineated limits of wetlands at Block 139, Lot 41
- Letter from Richard Wostbrock & Associates regarding an application for an authorization under freshwater wetlands general permit-by-certification. The applicant proposes to construct an individual subsurface disposal septic system to accommodate the wastewater from the existing dwelling at 103 Anderson Drive.
- Notice of Public Hearings on Amendment to Bergen County District Solid Waste Management Plan by First and Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 23-02
- Various emails, public notices and agendas

OLD BUSINESS**Public Session**

Devaney made a motion to open the meeting to the public; seconded by Seibert. All in favor.

There being no comments from the public, Devaney made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Seibert. All in favor.

2023 Tree Plantings

The Commission discussed our suggested plantings for 2023. Ariemma prepared a plan, which she distributed to members.

Spring Renewal Day – April 22, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Members discussed ordering tree seedlings for Earth Day. Wolf will request an estimate from Pinelands Nursery.

Spotted Lanternfly Issues

Ariemma discussed her concerns about the invasive spotted lanternfly. She will prepare some information for the group.

Wildlife Management Forum

Coda said she would like to coordinate a wildlife management forum and consider forming a committee to address wildlife management.

Mahwah Green Team

Coda said she, Galow and Karin LaGreca would like to reactivate the Mahwah Green Team. Members discussed.

Trex Bench

DPW has located our Trex bench and will install it in the spring.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Seibert. All in favor. The next meeting will be held via remote video conference and in-person at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, and is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary