

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

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held via remote video conference and in-person at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Janet Ariemma
Mike Devaney
Victoria Galow
Jack Pfister
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf
Megan Charles, Alternate I (remote; 7:09 p.m.)
Ward Donigian, Council Liaison (remote; 7:31 p.m.)

Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Sally Coda
Gary Montroy, Alternate II

The minutes of the meeting held on February 22, 2023 were approved following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Galow. All other members voted in favor.

PUBLIC SESSION

Property Maintenance Discussion

Wolf introduced Doug Burns, the Code Enforcement Official from the Township's Property Maintenance Office.

Burns discussed his responsibilities, including tree preservation and removal permits, wildlife issues; and enforcement of current ordinances.

Burns discussed the need to look at the ordinance regulating increase in popularity of residents who want to own chickens and livestock.

He said he would like to start a program - called Streets to Streams - designed to keep our rivers and streams clean.

Wolf asked if he would be able to provide the Commission with a list of the types and number of complaints he has received since he started.

Galow made a motion to open the meeting to the public; seconded by Seibert.

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

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Hewins & Pressman, 52 Malcolm, Block 95, Lot 1, E-BD-16-3528

Soil Movement Permit Application to remove existing driveway and other related improvements

Comments to Administrative Officer

The tree replacement varieties must be native, deciduous species. The Commission also feels that one of the trees can be saved.

This application review was rejected with the above two comments following a motion by Charles; seconded by Pfister. Seibert, Devaney, Galow and Wolf voted against the motion.

Galow made a second motion to reject the application based on the tree replacement varieties, with a recommendation that the applicant make an effort to save the tree. Devaney seconded. Galow, Seibert, Devaney, Charles, Ariemma and Wolf voted in favor. Pfister voted against the motion.

Sikora, 1 Chapel Road, Block 150, Lot 19.05, E-BD-216-304-738

Soil Movement Permit Application to construct a pool and patio on the property

This application review was approved following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Seibert. All other members were in favor.

Moss, 124 Lawrence Road, Block 73, Lot 20.02, E-BD-216-3535

Soil Movement Permit Application for grading, drainage, landscaping, a retaining wall and fireplace on patio

Comments to Administrative Officer

Please have the applicant indicate the five trees being removed on the tree replacement application.

This application review was accepted with the above comment following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Devaney. All other members were in favor.

TREE PRESERVATION/REMOVAL REQUESTS

None received

TENANT APPLICATIONS

None received

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was deferred until the next meeting due to the time.

OLD BUSINESS

Wildlife Forum

Members discussed potential dates for a Wildlife Forum and various topics the Commission would like to consider. Members also discussed deer management.

Public Session

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

Resident John Fesen said the library is hosting a deer presentation on April 4 at the library. Members discussed.

Rain Garden Beautification Committee

On March 25, the Beautification Committee is meeting to discuss projects. All are welcome to attend.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. following a motion by Devaney; 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, March 22, 2023 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary