

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 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
Sally Coda
Mike Devaney
Victoria Galow (remote)
Jack Pfister
Richard Seibert
Richard Wolf

Jennifer Storms, Secretary
Karin LaGreca, SNJ Consultant

Absent: Megan Charles, Alternate I
Gary Montroy, Alternate II
Ward Donigian, Council Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on March 22, 2023 were approved following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Coda. All other present members voted in favor. Devaney abstained.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Wetlands Development

Ariemma said she has been approached by numerous residents about a potential development on Ridge Road and Peterson Place encroaching on the wetlands. Members discussed the minimum requirements for wetlands buffers and how we, as a town, want to approach development.

Rain Garden

Seibert said he recently cleaned up some trash around the rain garden. LaGreca said we can order plants and start cleaning up soon. Galow said the Beautification Committee is scheduled to visit the site on April 29, and will be planting on May 13 and 20.

Municipal Tree Plantings

Wolf is meeting with the DPW and landscaper on April 14 to discuss the plan for the 25 trees we are planting this year.

April 22 Tree Seedling Giveaway

Members discussed the April 22 seedling giveaway.

Volunteer Fair – Wednesday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Coda said she is signed up for the volunteer fair at the high school.

Spring Newsletter

The newsletter articles are due this Friday. Coda and LaGreca are working on submissions.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

NYSE Group, 1700 Macarthur Boulevard, Block 139, Lot 4, Docket #1532-22

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Board of Adjustment Application to remove one existing 160-foot monopole and related equipment structures and the installation of two 180-foot lattice towers with related ground-mounted equipment shelters.

Galow made a motion to accept the application; seconded by Pfister. All in favor.

The Plant Church, 125 Glasgow Terrace, Block 135, Lots 1 & 2, Docket #1536-23

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Board of Adjustment Application

Devaney made a motion to accept the application; seconded by Seibert. Coda and Pfister voted to reject. All other members were in favor.

Comments:

Please consider utilizing pervious concrete for sidewalks and pervious asphalt for portions of the parking lot to meet NJ Green Infrastructure guidelines for stormwater runoff.

Soil Movement Permit Applications

None received

Tenant Applications

The following tenant applications were reviewed and accepted:

Rener Gracie Ramapo Valley, 860 Wyckoff Avenue, Block 181, Lot 6, Tenant #23-0007

Martial Arts Instruction

Ackerman Sales / Sea Crest Marketing, 860 Wyckoff Avenue, Block 181, Lot 6, Tenant #23-0008

Sales

Tandoori Bites, 164 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lot 9, Tenant #23-0009

Restaurant

Le Luxe Venue LLC, 180 Franklin Turnpike, Block 71, Lot 10, Tenant #23-0010

Upscale Event Space

Tree Preservation/Removal Requests

The Environmental Commission reviewed the Tree Replacement Guidelines prepared by the Code Enforcer. Members had no changes.

Correspondence

None received

OLD BUSINESS

April 22 Tree Giveaway, Paper Shredding and Styrofoam Collection

Wolf reminded members of our tree seedling giveaway and Styrofoam collection.

Wildlife Forum Discussion

The Wildlife Forum is tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2023 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pfister noted we should plan to have a police presence. Members discussed topics and a format for the forum.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Susan Beisler, a resident on Osbourne Court, called in to say the Masonicus Brook / Ramsey Brook near her home is severely impaired. She said there are serious health concerns spreading all throughout our community, including new pathogens, microbes, zoonotic diseases and more. She said her whole family has gotten sick as well as their family dog. The rotting vegetation along the brook in particular needs to be addressed. Wolf asked her to send us her research to look at.

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

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. following a motion by Devaney; seconded by Galow. 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, April 26, 2023 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary