

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022**

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 7:04 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Richard Wolf, Chair
 Richard Seibert, Co-Chair
 Janet Ariemma, Council Liaison
 Sally Coda
 Mike Devaney (*remote*)
 Jack Pfister (*remote*)
 Victoria Galow, Alternate I
 Gary Montroy, Alternate II (*joined remotely at 7:15 p.m.; left at 7:50 p.m.*)
 Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Megan Charles

The minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2022 were approved following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Coda. Wolf, Seibert, Ariemma and Coda voted in favor. Galow and Montroy abstained.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Wolf welcomed Stephanie Gundermann, the town's grantwriter from Bruno Associates. Gunderman distributed a list of available environmental grants. Members discussed the available opportunities.

Members discussed the township's plans for planting trees around town in accordance with the Township Master Plan. Ariemma noted her concerns about trees being removed along East Ramapo Avenue. Wolf said he is coordinating the tree removals with DPW. Members discussed the possibility of establishing a Shade Tree Commission, which would open us up to more grant opportunities. Coda suggested we split up into committees to tackle some priorities, including grant research. Gundermann said she will continue to look into grant opportunities, but if the Commission finds other opportunities we are welcome to send them directly to her. Storms will forward Gundermann's email to the members.

Social Media Update (*Subcommittee: Galow, Coda and Charles*)

Colin Crissey spoke to the group about upcoming initiatives to bolster our social media presence. Our subcommittee is working on a media plan for Crissey.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Tree Giveaway, Paper Shredding and Styrofoam Collection Event

Wolf asked members for their availability for our upcoming Tree Giveaway, Paper Shredding and Styrofoam Collection event next week. Members discussed.

ANJEC Virtual Meeting

Galow and Coda attended a recent virtual ANJEC meeting. She said it gave them some great ideas for the rain garden.

Commission Shirts and ID Badges

We will place an order to have new member shirts before Mahwah Day. Storms will pull up vendors we have used in the past. We may also have the opportunity to have new ID badges printed for members. Storms will follow up for more information.

NEW BUSINESS**Callery Pear Tree Discussion**

Wolf said the Callery Pears have been found to be weak and do not hold up well in the Northeast. He made a motion to remove the Callery Pear Tree from our list of approved trees; seconded by Pfister. All other present members approved.

Artificial Floating Island Update

Devaney asked about the status of the artificial floating island. Wolf said he would like to move forward by this summer. Galow will reach out to the local troop leader to see if they would be interested in helping. Devaney said it could cost up to \$4,000 to fund the cost of supplies for the island.

Tree Removals Near Commodore Perry

Ariemma again noted her concerns that DPW is proposing to take down trees that line East Ramapo Road near Commodore Perry. She said we should not be removing these trees and asked why DPW is doing this. Wolf said several members, including the Director of DPW, recently attended a training for our Community Forestry Management Plan. He will reach out to DPW for more details.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, 1 Rozanski Lane, Block 123, Lot 17.01, Docket #628
The Environmental Commission reviewed a Planning Board Application Review Report for a preliminary and final site plan approval on the site.

Pfister made a motion to accept the application; seconded by Ariemma. All other present members voted in favor.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and approved:

Mahwah Cars 5, LLC, 345 Route 17, Block 63, Lot 7, TA22-0007

Auto retailer, parts, sales and service

Lipman TKD LLC, DBA Hong Ik Martial Arts, 125 Franklin Turnpike, Block 70, Lots 47 & 48, TA22-0009

Martial arts instruction

Your Paint Pro Inc., 200 Route 17, South #212, Block 132, Lot 11, TA22-0010

Painting company office

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Letter from Beattie Padovano regarding Fyke Brook Estates
- Various minutes, public notices and agendas
- Email correspondence from ANJEC regarding upcoming events and training sessions

OLD BUSINESS

Fyke Road Updates

Wolf asked if the Commission wants to send a formal request to Property Maintenance to conduct a site visit at the property. Members agreed. Storms will ask Planning & Zoning about our next steps.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. following a motion by Seibert; 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 27, 2022 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary