

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 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 7:05 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Richard Wolf, Chair
 Janet Ariemma, Council Liaison (*remote*)
 Megan Charles (*remote*)
 Sally Coda
 Mike Devaney
 Jack Pfister (*remote*)
 Victoria Galow, Alternate I
 Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Richard Seibert, Co-Chair
 Gary Montroy, Alternate II

The minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2022 were approved following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Galow. Coda and Devaney abstained. All other present members voted in favor.

There were no members of the public present. Wolf motioned to waive the Public Session on the Agenda. No objections were noted.

OLD BUSINESS

Docket #620 – Russo Acquisitions LLC, 1000 MacArthur Boulevard, Block 135.01, Lot 65

Wolf said the Commission has received numerous complaints about the tree removals on the site. Ariemma noted her concerns about all of the tree removals. Galow reminded the group that it came before the Planning Board and was approved. Members discussed their concerns, and came to a consensus that the property is zoned for commercial use and was zoned for that purpose. The tree replacement plan has not yet been enacted.

Wolf asked Galow to find out how to provide input to the Planning Board for Master Plan changes. Members feel that if an ordinance is in place, it should be very difficult to get variances approved. We also feel that we should, as a town, take warehousing into consideration for future changes to our Master Plan.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

None received

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant applications were reviewed and accepted:

Camp Acorn, 10 Edison Road, Block 181, Lots 1, 3 & 4, TA22-0028
Non-profit enrichment program

Alison's Trading Corp, 91 B McKee Drive, Block 65, Lot 11, TA22-0029
Wholesale supplier of school materials

Galaxy Performing Arts Academy, 370 Franklin Turnpike, Block
Dance studio

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Various emails, public notices and agendas
- Letter from Wolf to the Planning Board requesting an Environmental Impact Study for the application submission at 1 Fyke Road, Block 21 – Lots 21, 22 and 23

NEW BUSINESS

Trex Recycling Initiative

Coda has done a great job setting up all of the collection bins for the initiative. There are bins located all over the town. Coda said we have already collected 50 pounds of plastic after just three days. Members discussed.

Salem Oak Seedling

Wolf said he is going to plant the Salem Oak seedling we received from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. He is going to plant it at Continental Soldier's Park.

Artificial Floating Island

Devaney will follow up with Tom McKeon to keep the artificial floating island plans in motion.

Rain Barrel

Ariemma said the Historic Preservation Commission is looking for a rain barrel. Storms will reach out to the HPC.

Water Contamination Update

The EPA recently released new health advisories for toxic "forever chemicals" known to be in thousands of U.S. drinking water systems, impacting potentially millions of people across the country. Members discussed the ramifications of these findings in regard to Mahwah's water quality issues.

Bees in our Ecosystem

Coda recently attended an event where they highlighted the importance of bees to our ecosystem. She is going to work with Karin LaGreca and student volunteers to create an educational series about animals and our ecosystem.

Tree Updates

Members discussed working on a script for future social media posts. Coda asked Ariemma and Pfister to take some photos of the ash trees on their properties and document their thoughts about removing invasive species.

Mahwah Day

Coda will coordinate the booth for our Mahwah Day display. Wolf asked members to think about topic ideas.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. following a motion by Galow; seconded by Charles. 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, July 13, 2022 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary