

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

The remote meeting of the Environmental Commission 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
 Janet Ariemma, Council Liaison
 Megan Charles
 Jack Pfister
 Carol Phiefer
 Richard Seibert, Co-Chair
 Mike Devaney, Alternate I
 Sally Coda, Alternate II
 Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Frank Pallotta, Planning Board Liaison

The minutes of the meeting held on September 8, 2021 were approved following a motion by Charles; seconded by Phiefer. Seibert abstained. All other present members voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Mahwah Day

Members discussed assignments for Mahwah Day this Saturday. Phiefer will bring tables and chairs. Members discussed game ideas. Participants will be awarded the new reusable bags we purchased.

Lake Henry Tree Removals

Ariemma said there are a lot of trees that were cut down around Continental Soldier's Park on the way to Lake Henry. Members discussed.

Peterson Place Subdivision

Ariemma said there is a new subdivision on Peterson Place, and all of the trees that were planted on the right are dead. Members discussed.

1000 Macarthur Blvd. Site Plan

Coda attended the recent Planning Board meeting to hear the application for 1000 Macarthur Boulevard. The applicants submitted a revised plan for the proposed driveway. Wolf will send Mike Kelly an email to ensure our Commission has the opportunity to review the changes prior to project approval. The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for this Monday.

River Cleanup – September 19

The Ramapo River cleanup took place on Sunday, September 19, 2021. The volunteer group was smaller than anticipated but they were able to remove 10 tires from the river and

filled 10 bags of garbage from the river and landing area. They are planning to make this an annual event and the Environmental Comm will look into expanding the cleanup to neighboring towns.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

None received as of September 22, 2021

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Faddis & Douglas, 195 Stag Hill Road, Block 13, Lots 4 & 5, Docket #1470-19(s)

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a proposed single-family home on the property. The Tree Preservation Application indicates 126 trees on the property. Of those trees, 55 will be removed with 19 replacements.

This application review was accepted following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. Pfister, Charles and Devaney abstained. All other present members were in favor.

Fusco, 368 Campgaw Road, Block 145, Lot 3, E-BD-216-304-716

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a pool and patio on the property. Members discussed their concerns over the details of the site and would like to conduct a site visit. We also request a landscaping plan; not a hand drawing. Wolf proposed to accept the application conditionally pending confirmation of the location of the home and the submission of a formal survey.

Wolf made a motion to conditionally approve the application citing the above concerns; seconded by Seibert. Pfister, Devaney, Ariemma, Phiefer and Charles opposed the proposal.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

Please confirm the location at 368 Campgaw is consistent with the plans submitted. A Google search indicates otherwise. The Environmental Commission also requests an official survey to show impervious coverage and landscaping to ensure any trees are properly identified and shown on the plan.

Pfister made a motion to reject the application citing the above concerns; seconded by Charles. All present members voted in favor of the rejection.

Public Session

The Environmental Commission opened the meeting for public comment.

Robert Titus, Chestnut Street resident, expressed his concerns over the tree-cutting planned on 25 Chestnut Street (discussed below).

He asked if Mahwah is designated as a Tree City USA community. Wolf indicated Mahwah is not currently designated as part of the Tree City USA community. Members discussed future possibilities and requirements for Tree City USA designation. Further research is required to understand requirements and Mahwah's ability to request designation.

With no other participants requesting acknowledgment, the public session was closed.

OSAN USA INC., 25 Chestnut Street, Block 167, Lot 45.01, E-BD-216-3399

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a new single-family dwelling on the property. The Tree Preservation Application indicates 54 trees will be removed, with zero replacements.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

Pfister cited his concerns over the lack of a tree replacement plan. The ordinance requires tree replacement. The waiver rational, point #22, is not sufficient. Up to 20 percent of the trees to be removed are far enough away from the dwelling to stay intact.

This application review was rejected following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Phiefer. All other present members voted in favor of the rejection.

Farkash, 851 Darlington Avenue, Block 18, Lot 15, E-BD-216-3411

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a proposed one-story garage addition and front porch, driveway extension and deck on the property. The application indicates four trees will be removed.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

There are seven trees marked for removal on the plan; but only four listed on the application. Please confirm the actual number of trees slated for removal. Please also confirm if additional trees have been removed from the property.

This application review was deferred until further information is provided following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Devaney. All other present members were in favor.

Wu, 53 Meadowlake Drive, Block 145.01, Lot 2, E-BD-216-3401

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a landscaping project to level the existing backyard for the property.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

The application notes 17 trees were removed this year, which exceeds the permitted annual limit. Please have the applicant explain if those were removed without prior approval. If removed without approval, there may be citations and the applicant may be required to replace a minimum number of trees.

This application review was rejected pending the above concerns following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Seibert. All other present members were in favor of the rejection.

Joseph, 14 Jahn Court, Block 152, Lot 69.02, E-BD-216-3406

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for a new single-family dwelling on the property. Forty-eight trees are proposed to be removed, with zero replacements.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

Please have the applicant clarify how the soil is being exported. Please also have the applicant provide details of tree removals and replacements. The plan would require a buffer area to provide separation to neighbors.

This application review was rejected following a motion by Wolf; seconded by Phiefer. All other present members were in favor of the rejection.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant application was reviewed and approved:

The Front End Shop, 20 Franklin Turnpike, Block 68, Lot 3, TA21-0026

Change of ownership only

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Various emails, public notices and agendas

NEW BUSINESS

Shade Tree Committee Discussion

Members discussed the creation of a shade tree commission in town. Ariemma noted her concerns with a commission. Coda suggested we attend an upcoming Ramsey Shade Tree Commission meeting to see what the organization does. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

There being no further questions or discussion, the remote meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 9:23 p.m. following a motion by Pfister; seconded by Seibert. Our next remote meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary