



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Approved Minutes
For the regular meeting of
Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Note: this meeting was conducted using a Zoom videoconferencing application.

* The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Nora Sirbaugh, Rex Parker, Paul Kinney, Andrew Plunkett, Jim Gambino, Mike Aucott, Ray Nichols (7:08)

Members absent: George Kerr, Vanessa Sandom

Also present: Mark Kataryniak - Twp Administrative Officer

Courtney Peters-Manning – Twp Liaison

Members of the Public present: Mike Pisauro, Kevin Kuchinski, and a few others who did not comment.

Minutes for Approval

The June 16, 2020 draft minutes were approved as amended – Motion, Rex; 2nd Andrew; Abstentions – none; all in favor.

Action: Jim will forward these minutes to Jaimie Laird for posting on the Township website.

Note: all were in favor of adding Spotted Lanternfly to tonight's agenda under New Business as per Rex's request.

Public Comment – see stormwater management presentation below.

Presentation - Stormwater Management (about one hour)

Mike Pisauro of the Watershed Institute discussed changes to NJDEP's stormwater management rules and areas where he thought the rules should be stricter. The new rules must be adopted by all NJ municipalities by March 2, 2020.

Each year NJ contains more impervious cover, and has been experiencing heavier rainfalls with increased flooding leading to more polluted runoff entering our streams and rivers.

The new rules promote different tools (treatments) to achieve the same standards with emphasis on green infrastructure. Drainage areas are reduced leading to more and various treatments being deployed. All treatments affect the water quality, quantity, and recharge.

The need for stormwater management occurs when triggers for development or redevelopment are reached: 1 acre of disturbed land or ¼ acre of impervious surface. (Mike suggested these numbers should be reduced to ½ acre disturbance and 5,000 sq. ft impervious).

If triggered, the project must retain 100% of 95% of the rain events on site through green infrastructure. The goal is to retain two gallons of stormwater per square foot of impervious cover for every 250 sq ft increase in impervious surface. Cisterns and/or drywells may be necessary on some sites. A variance may be granted if the contractor can prove it is technically impracticable to meet the standards on the site. All mitigation must occur before or during construction. A mitigation fee may be collected by the municipality in lieu of actual mitigation and used for a future stormwater project.

Municipalities shall annually inspect all stormwater management treatments, with maintenance performed by the land owner who shall provide quarterly reports to the municipality. The municipality may charge a fee for inspections.

Kevin asked if there was a way to prioritize treatments from most aggressive to least aggressive on a site by site basis, which the EC members would vet. Which techniques should be used, which are most impactful, and what concerns should be addressed. He suggested we infiltrate more stormwater to the aquifer, and maintain or enhance our stream buffers to keep pollutants from entering our streams.

Paul suggested that if there are areas in the township of higher risk, then we should be stricter when applying the rules. Proactive treatments may reduce negative impacts to downstream neighbors.

Ray mentioned that some sump pumps may be connected to the stormwater system.

Actions: Mike will send a copy of a model stormwater ordinance to Courtney, Kevin and EC members to discuss.

The township should also discuss ways to educate the public about this important issue and identify sites for public and private green infrastructure projects.

Zoning Board Application Reviews

Case No. 2020-8: Loesch – Carriage House

Block 58, Lot 35 & Block 135, Lot 21; 69 River Drive; R-50 Zoning District
Use & Bulk Variance for new Carriage House

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Mark via Zoom. We are happy to see the new structure includes roof-mounted solar panels, and have no environmental concerns for the proposed project as described in the application.

Case No. 2020-9: Carroll Residence

Block 18, Lot 55; 3 Lawyers Lane; VRC Zoning District
Bulk Variance for lot coverage & side yard setback for Home Addition

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Mark via Zoom.

We do not recommend approving this application for the following reasons:

We understand the existing impervious lot coverage area of 35.2 % greatly exceeds the 10 % allowable lot coverage area for properties located in this zone. The net addition of 380 sq ft of impervious cover as shown on the plans will only exacerbate this issue.

We note the drywell analysis does not indicate acknowledgement of the site's soil conditions. Furthermore, the proposed drywell installation is designed to only mitigate the new construction's impervious cover, continuing to leave the property over the limit.

Lots exceeding the maximum impervious coverage area have an adverse affect on our community and environment by increasing storm-water run-off and flooding, and sedimentation

of our streams and other water bodies. The cumulative effects of multiple approvals are of serious concern.

Case No. 2020-11: **Stratuik Pool**

Block 87, Lot 110.1; 23 Diverty Road; R-100 Zoning District

Bulk Variance for lot coverage and rear yard setback for new In-ground Pool

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Mark via Zoom.

We do not recommend approving this application for the following reasons:

We understand the existing impervious lot coverage area of 21.8 % exceeds the 15 % allowable lot coverage area for properties located in this zone. The plan shows the pool's addition will exacerbate this issue by increasing impervious coverage to 26.4 %.

Lots exceeding the maximum impervious coverage area have an adverse affect on our community and environment by increasing storm-water run-off and flooding, and sedimentation of our streams and other water bodies. The cumulative effects of multiple approvals are of serious concern.

Action: Jim will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Jaimie Laird to post with the appropriate applications on the Township website.

Planning Board Application Reviews - none

Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects

A. Twp Committee Liaison Report

Courtney reported that:

Hopewell Township has once again qualified to be a Tree City USA member as announced by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

A request for proposal (RFP) was issued July 17 for the Community Energy Aggregation program. There will be an option to have higher renewable or 100% renewable energy choice. An auction is scheduled for August 19.

Action: the EC may be asked to help promote the renewable energy component of the CEA program.

The Woody Plant (Landscape) Ordinance is scheduled to be announced at the August 3 Twp Committee meeting.

The Twp is seeking applications from members of the public to serve on the newly created Citizens' Equity Advisory Committee.

B. Planning Board Liaison Report - none

C. Zoning Board Report - none

D. Woolsey Park Tree Initiatives

Jim provided an update on some recent watering work that he and Mike performed on our younger trees. Twenty gallon Gator bags were placed on two trees. Stakes and roping were removed from the Blackwell Oak. The memorial plaques for the Blackwell Oak and Stiles Dogwood have been permanently concreted in place by the Twp Public Works.

Action: Rex will make new signs for the Chestnut Trees.

New Business

A. Native Pocket Garden Initiative

Andrew explained his desire to create native pocket gardens throughout the township.

Action: Andrew will send a Google document containing his ideas to all members for comment.

B. Environmental Justice Bill S-232/A2212

After discussing a draft resolution, members approved sending a resolution in support of the Bills to our Twp Committee and State Legislature. Motion, Ray; 2nd Nora; all in favor.

Actions: Ray will modify the wording at the end of the draft resolution and send it to Nora for her signature. The completed resolution shall be sent to Mark, Courtney and EC members. Courtney will forward our resolution to Twp Committee.

Note: a copy of the final resolution is included at the end of these minutes.

C. Spotted Lanternfly (Note: this item was added to our agenda at the start of tonight's meeting)

This destructive insect has been found in Hopewell Twp by many. The concern is to notify the public about safe ways to capture or kill these insects without the widespread use of toxic chemicals. As per Rex, common insecticidal soap is effective on the instars. Andrew noted that simple, inexpensive traps can be made at home.

Action: Nora will prepare a list of the top five things to look for / things for residents to do, which Mark will post on the Twp's web site and social media. The notice will also include helpful web links such as Penn State and NJDEP for more information.

Announcements & Correspondence

A. The Twp received a Major Modification Permit Action Notice for Draft Discharge to Surface Waters Renewal at Stony Brook Regional Sewer Authority, Hopewell Treatment Plant, NJPDES Permit NJ0035301. The modification concerns allowable nitrate levels for the facility's five year renewal.

- * The meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm: Motion – Jim, 2nd Ray; all in favor.

Note: we do not plan on having an August meeting unless we here from Mark that it is necessary.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gambino
Secretary



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Resolution

Adopted at the regular meeting of
Tuesday, July 21, 2020

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NJ LEGISLATIVE BILLS S-232/ A-2212

Requires DEP to evaluate environmental and public health impacts of certain facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications.

WHEREAS, the bill S-232/A-2212 concerns environmental permits in overburdened communities, and

WHEREAS, this bill would require a person seeking a permit for a new facility, or for the expansion of an existing facility, located in an overburdened community, to meet certain additional requirements before they can obtain the permit, and

WHEREAS, "facility" is defined as any: (1) major source of air pollution; (2) resource recovery facility or incinerator; (3) sludge processing facility, combustor, or incinerator; (4) sewage treatment plant with a capacity of more than 50 million gallons per day; (5) transfer station or other solid waste facility, or recycling facility intending to receive at least 100 tons of recyclable material per day; (6) scrap metal facility; (7) landfill, including, but not limited to, a landfill that accepts ash, construction or demolition debris, or solid waste; or (8) medical waste incinerator, and

WHEREAS, an overburdened community is defined as any census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States Census, in which: (1) at least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households; (2) at least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or (3) at least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency, and

WHEREAS, NJDEP would not be permitted to grant certain environmental permits unless the permit applicant first:

- 1. prepares a report assessing the environmental impact of the proposed new or expanded facility on the overburdened community,***
- 2. makes the assessment report available to the public at least 30 days prior to a public meeting, and***
- 3. organizes and conducts a public hearing in the overburdened community, and***

WHEREAS, under the bill S-232/A-2122, the DEP would have the authority to deny a permit application in an overburdened community upon a finding that the cumulative impacts posed by the proposed new or expanded facility, would constitute an unreasonable risk to the health of the residents of the overburdened community and to the environment in that community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL (in Mercer County):

- 1. Does hereby support S-232/A-2122, requiring the DEP to evaluate environmental and public health impacts of certain facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications.***
- 2. Will provide a copy of this resolution to members of the Hopewell Township Committee with the recommendation that they adopt a resolution using the same text, and forward it to our local NJ Senate and Assembly representatives, Senator Shirley Turner, Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, and Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli, as well as Senate President Steven Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin***
- 3. Will provide a copy of this resolution to our local NJ Senate and Assembly representatives, Senator Shirley Turner, Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, and Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli***
- 4. Will provide a copy to Senate President Steven Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin***

Dated: July 21, 2020

I, Nora Sirbaugh, Chair of the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission at a regular meeting held on July 21, 2020.