



# TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Approved Minutes**  
For the regular meeting of  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022

**Note: this meeting was conducted and recorded using a Zoom videoconferencing application. There were problems with the zoom link and the meeting started late.**

\* The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:15 pm by Nora Sirbaugh.

### **Statement of Compliance & Roll Call**

Members present: Nora Sirbaugh, Rex Parker, Mike Aucott, Andrew Plunkett, Vanessa Sandom, and Jim Gambino.

Members absent: Paul Kinney, Mark Bean, George Kerr

Also present: Jim Hutzelmann (7:58) - Twp Engineer

Members of the Public present: Joann Held, Susan Michniewski

### **Minutes for Approval**

The January 18, 2022 draft minutes were approved – Motion, Mike; 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew; all in favor.

**Action:** Jim G. will forward these minutes to Amanda Bregenzer for posting on the Township website

### **Zoning Board Application Review**

Case No. 21-25: **Rossi Pool**

Block 43.22, Lot 9; 30 Meadow Lane;

R-100 Zoning District

Bulk variance for Lot Coverage for Pool and Patio

We reviewed and discussed the subject application together with Jim Hutzelmann.

We understand the existing property exceeds the allowable impervious lot coverage area of 15% for properties located in the R-100 zone. The proposed project will exacerbate this issue by increasing lot coverage to 18.1 % and will require stormwater management for this project.

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

We understand the applicant is proposing to install a drywell to mitigate the excess stormwater produced from the additional lot coverage. We believe the mitigation should be designed to capture and infiltrate anything above the 15% maximum allowable lot coverage. Additionally, the overflow from the drywell should be directed onto the applicant's property and not adversely affect the neighboring property. Also, there are no soil test results to show adequate infiltration of the mitigated stormwater and question whether the drywell will function as intended.

For the above reasons we do not recommend approving this application unless the excess lot coverage can be effectively mitigated on site and maintained into the future.

If the Board decides to approve this application we recommend that the project must comply with existing stormwater regulations.

**Action:** Jim G. will prepare and send our review comments via memo to Amanda Bregenzer to post with this application on the Township website.

### **Subcommittee Reports / Discussions / Updates for on-going projects**

1. **Twp Committee Liaison Report** – none

2. **Planning Board Liaison Report** – Rex reported there were minor issues with the BeiGene Application, which we reviewed last month. BeiGene will revise their plans and discuss them at the Feb 17 Board meeting.

3. **Zoning Board Report** – none.

4. **Native Plant Demonstration Garden**

Andrew reported that he met with Chris Swanson of Public Works to review the proposed planting areas. He is working on getting prices for plants.

**Action:** prepare Twp Purchase Order for plants.

5. **Arboretum at Woolsey Park**

Jim G. reported he, Mike & Rex measured the proposed planting area to be approximately 40' x 500'.

**Actions:** schedule with Public Works to mow down brush in this area, and perhaps dump any excess leaf mulch the Twp is storing to prevent any new growth. We also plan to identify existing trees in the area once the trees leaf out in spring.

6. **Arbor Day - Salem Oak**

The new tree will honored at our 2022 Arbor Day celebration on April 30. We discussed whether to find and plant other hard to grow species that day.

### **New Business**

1. **Sustainable Jersey (SJ) - Recertification**

Recertification requires a lot of documentation on the Twp's part, and Twp staff does not have the time or resources to do this task. How does the Twp benefit by being recertified?

Joann Held suggested we should do things that we were putting off in order to get points. We agreed that we should document all future projects as they progress.

**Actions:** Joann will forward past Twp accomplishments to Nora.

Members are asked to review the SJ Actions Checklist to discuss at our next meeting.

2. **Flooding Mitigation Plan & Storm Water Utility**

Jim suggested the Twp should consider developing a Flooding Mitigation Plan & Storm Water Utility.

3. **ANJEC Stormwater Resolution**

Members received an e-mail from ANJEC asking us to approve a resolution to halt developers from changing the rules so that municipalities can not exceed the NJDEP model regulations for the Residential Site Improvement Standards in their stormwater ordinances.

Following our discussion and a motion to approve, we decided to vote on this at our next meeting since some members said they did not receive the ANJEC e-mail or did not have time to read the resolution.

**Action:** Jim G. will forward the e-mail Nora who will forward it to members.

#### **4. Pesticide Ordinance**

Jim G. questioned whether the Twp uses pesticides on municipal recreation areas, and if we have an ordinance banning pesticide use in these areas.

**Action:** Andrew will e-mail George Snyder and ask him if he can provide answers to these questions.

#### **5. Wildlife Crossings and the Infrastructure Act**

**Action:** Nora and Mike will look into applying for a grant.

#### **6. Compost Pilot Program**

No further action is necessary.

#### **7. NJUCF Spring Core Training for Community Forestry Management Program**

Nora reported that this year's core training will be done online during March.

**Action:** Nora will send information to Vanessa to sign up.

#### **8. PSEG Annual Wetland Monitoring Report for Mount Rose Substation Project**

We discussed the report and the minimal amphibian sightings in the two wetland areas at this site. Nora questioned why there was no other wildlife sightings noted in the report. Jim H. said the report met the requirements.

#### **Announcements & Correspondence**

1. Notice of submission to NJDEP - Treatment Works Approval for Woodmont Federal at Hopewell Site Plan; B 78.09, L 21
2. NJDEP Land Use Regulation Permit – Mercer County Hopewell Golf Course Improvements; B 37, L 6

#### **Public Comment**

Susan Michniewski expressed her concerns for upcoming amphibian crossings to vernal pools along Crusher Road. The road has lots of cut-through traffic any many animals are killed while crossing during warm, rainy nights in February and March. She asked for our help.

Jim H. pointed out that the road could not be closed, but perhaps Public Works could post cautionary signs at certain locations along the road to alert motorists.

**Actions:** Sue will identify high crossing locations and send this information to Nora.

Nora will forward this information to Reba Holly to post on the Twp web site to help educate the public; and post days, times, and roads on the Twp Instagram account to help alert the public to these crossing sites.

- \* The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm: Motion – Rex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike; all in favor.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Gambino  
Secretary