

WWT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 13, 2025

The February 2025 meeting of the WWT Environmental Commission was held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 via Zoom with Ephraim Buhks calling the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, a notice of this meeting's date, time, place and agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Members: E. Buhks; E. Gordon; I. Singh; A. Baig
Liaison: F. Guzik Advisor: D. Parris Council Liaison: Andrea Mandel
Guests: Allison. WWT Resident

REORGANIZATION: E. Buhks appointed Chair by Mayor; E. Gordon motioned by E. Buhks and seconded by A. Baig to continue as Vice-Chair, approved by voice vote; A Baig was appointed as PB representative by Mayor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 11, 2024 E. Gordon motioned; I. Singh seconded; Minutes were approved as presented.

CONTINUING BUSINESS: Project Review/Update

Planning Board – A. Baig reported that the PB had their reorganization meeting in January, where Michael Karp was elected as the Chairman and Curtis Hoberman was elected as Vice Chair. One proposal submitted by the Carnegie Center for a sign waiver for their marquee client, TAIHO Oncology, was approved. The proposed sign will be installed on the south-facing side of the building as it would not require any tree removal.

Township Council Update – A. Mandel reported that the township council had their Board of Health meeting on February 10, 2025. There is a new guide available for residents which has been put online, guiding how to handle pets and providing information on licensing requirements. A large poster has been made available online to address concerns and provide information to residents about bird flu and proper handling of deceased animals. The township will be hosting a public information session on February 25, 2025 from 6 to 8 pm on the Mercer County Route 571 Improvement project. Several staff members from the County Engineering Department and the design consultants will be in attendance. The project involves installing contiguous sidewalks in two phases; phase one will be from Wallace Road to Alexander Road, and phase two will be from Alexander Road to Clarksville Road. It will also consist of bike lanes and traffic calming treatments. No official date for the project has been set, but it is anticipated to be sometime in the summer or early fall.

Natural Landscape & Lawns – E. Gordon stated he contacted a commercial lawn care company in Monroe Township to request feedback on the pros and cons of natural landscaping. He plans to contact several other commercial landscape companies to continue gathering information and feedback which he can present at the next EC meeting.

Sustainable Jersey Recertification 2025 – F. Guzik stated he sent a document to the EC members containing an outline and Green Team Summary that D. Dobromilsky has started to work on. Members are requested to review and provide comments, changes, or additions. F. Guzik gave a brief overview of the different activities listed. The West Windsor Community Garden is a self-governing opportunity for residents to obtain a plot and grow their choice of plants. The project has had a multiyear waiting list and continues to remain successful. The mayor has approved expanding the garden out by approximately 50 feet to allow for 20 more plots to address the wait list demand. Some of the other activities include the farmland preservation plan, reviewing the

green building checklist, anti-idling education and enforcement, sustainable land use pledge, green business recognition, and community forestry and tree cover. D. Dobromilsky can assist in determining the level of assistance needed to complete each activity or provide information on events previously held that can be included. EC members will be invited to a meeting with D. Dobromilsky in person to continue reviewing the list and to coordinate work to accomplish the tasks. F. Guzik reminded EC members that 350 points need to be submitted and approved in order to obtain the Silver level certification. Previous applications have been submitted with close to 380 or 400 points, in case any activities are not accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

FOWWOS, Green Acres & Moses Tatamy Tundra Trail – F. Guzik briefly reported on the proposed project application submitted by FOWWOS for a green acres grant to install a pedestrian trail walkway running from Penn Lyle Road, crossing over North Post Road, and ending at a shared driveway near the Duck Pond Run Sewer pump station. The walkway would address the local community's desire to enjoy the passive recreation and wooded nature of the township. The application was submitted on February 5, 2025 and will take approximately 3 to 6 months to determine if they receive approval for full or partial funding. This is a preliminary design and concept plan with a budget estimate. Additional work will need to take place, including survey and engineering work, budget updating and possible traffic study.

Watershed Institute Annual Stream Cleanup – F. Guzik asked if there is an interest of EC members to participate and coordinate an annual stream cleanup with the Watershed Institute, and if they could identify any specific locations in the community that would benefit from such an event. E. Buhks stated he believes there is an open space group that conducts a clean-up day once a year. In addition, he believes there used to be a grant that could be applied for through the township to compensate volunteers. A. Mandel stated there is a clean streets program where a nonprofit could get paid through a grant; however, she is unsure the last time it was utilized. F. Guzik stated he would contact the acting director of FOWWOS, who is a Shade Tree Committee advisor, and the township public works to obtain more information.

Allison, WWT Resident, apologized for arriving late to the meeting and inquired if any new information had been obtained on the Natural Landscape and Lawn topic. E. Gordon stated that he was still attempting to contact commercial landscape companies and did not have any additional information to report at this time. Allison asked if she should go back to the Health Department to continue to address her concern, as she was informed the health department was trying to work with the EC and township staff to determine if the nuisance complaint and township code could be enforced or revised to address these types of issues. E. Buhks suggested she attend a township council meeting to express her concerns, as the EC cannot adopt new rules but acts in an advisory manner on various rules and regulations regulated by the town. Allison expressed her frustration with the process and lack of ability to enforce the safety concerns she believes exist in her neighborhood. E. Buhks thanked her for attending the meeting and continuing to explore options to address the issue and reiterated that the Environmental Commission is unable to enforce or adopt new rules. F. Guzik confirmed that the information and suggestions received from the commission members were forwarded to the mayor and township administration for consideration.

There being no further business, E. Gordon motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by I. Singh.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Tomaro, Administrative Secretary
WW Environmental Commission