

# Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2019 7:30pm Borough Hall

## **Commissioner Members Present:**

Mimi Kaplan	Marnie Vyff
Chris Capodanno	Peter Smith
Allison Rankin	
Kyla Hunter	- Student Representative
Megan Beik	- Student Representative

## **Public Attendees:**

<u>Denville Residents</u>	<u>Boonton Township Resident</u>
Jodi Vitolo	Terry Hudzina
Donna Tomlinson	
Matthew Abraham	
Sonia Abraham	

## **1. Public Comments**

- A group of residents from Denville and one from Boonton Township commented on the proposed redevelopment of neighboring Hamilton Farms property sold to NETA, a subsidiary of Canadian TerrAscend Corporation for cultivation and processing of cannabis
- Highlighted were their serious concerns including crime rate increases, property value impact, water quality & aquifer impact, odor, light pollution, and other potential negative impacts. Reference was made to a Science Daily article:  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170427130750.htm>
- They indicated they would approach the Mountain Lakes Borough Council further on the topic

## **2. Administration**

- The December 2018 and March 2019 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved

## **3. Committee Liaison Updates**

- Lakes Committee updated that further dam testing and investigation is underway for repairs
- Shade Tree Commission updated that the free tree program during the trout derby was very successful and over 150 trees were distributed to residents  
The 2019 Tree Replacement Ordinance was presented at the last Council meeting and was well received. A copy of the presentation is available at:  
<https://mtnlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ML-STC-Presentation-Tree-Replacement-Ordinance-8APR2019.pdf>
- The Green Team is looking for new members to help the community, please apply at the Borough Hall or email [vegan@mtnlakes.org](mailto:vegan@mtnlakes.org)

- DPW liaison provided an update on recycling changes in the US and specific cost increases to the Borough which are under review. Mountain Lakes is now only including plastics 1, 2 & 5
- Student Members provided an update on a program to collect coffee cups at the High School and use as an Art Project to create more awareness of waste and encourage reusable items

#### **4. Development & Borough Project Updates**

- An update was provided that the current Zeris Inn property at 372 Route 46 is under sale and proposed re-development which will be presented to Council at the next meeting

#### **5. ML Environmental ERI & Ordinances 2019**

- Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) – The 10 year review is in progress and a report on our Current State. Preparation discussions took place on the ERI process and next steps for members
- Ordinance review – Members confirmed assignments and documents will be shared where we have existing ordinances in place for updating, and new ordinances will need to be developed for Sustainability and Storm Water Management

#### **6. Highlands Council Membership**

Further MLEC discussions took place on this Regional Support group and it was agreed that membership would provide valuable support and cost savings to the community. A review will be made for a briefing and presentation to Council

#### **7. Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)**

- It was agreed that the previous meeting of Morris County commissions was useful for Mountain Lakes to benchmark new ideas. A regional roundtable will be held May 16<sup>th</sup> in Madison and members are encouraged to join:  
<http://www.anjec.org/ConfWorkshops.htm#Roundtable>

#### **8. MLEC Website**

Updates were made to the MLEC Website and the team will continue to develop our useful communication to residents

#### **9. ML Storm Water Pollution Prevention Team**

This has been dormant and it was agreed to include in the next DPW annual meeting

*Meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm*

Next Meeting scheduled for May 21, 2019 7:30pm Borough Hall