

Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021 7:30pm Zoom Video Meeting

Commission Members Present:

Mimi Kaplan	Chris Capodanno
Nicholas Coppola	Andrew Armani
Marnie Vyff	Neeke Swart
Eric Lee	Student Liaison
Dan Happer	Borough Council Liaison

Public Attendees:

Briana Ostrosky	Angela Tsai
Dena Muniz	Ellen Foppes
Jen Lynch	Victoria
Ryan Gorman	

1. Administration
August Meeting Minutes were approved
2. Development
333 Route 46 W (Newsweek) Application and formal letter to Planning Board (PB)
Detailed Review was made of the plan with strong Resident input including:
 - Understanding the purpose to add so many parking space where it is currently underutilized
An Environmental Impact Study should be required, and no waiver by the PB
 - Impermeable Surface is major concern with Rain
 - Reduce Tree Removal, Replace Tree's on-site, and use as impervious surface for drainage to the degree or better the property does it now
 - Reducing Light and Noise Pollution
 - Maintenance of Storm-water Management Equipment
 - The Buffer and Zoning Ordinances need to be confirmed and ensure adherence

Residents who attended as Public Members contributed to above and also emphasized:

- There are existing issues with Drainage and Noise Pollution (garbage removal and night and generators) which will worsen rather than be improved upon
- Concern on reducing the Buffer to residents from 150 to 85 feet
- Area is not open space of trees but really Wetlands
- Request the Town confirm the Wetlands Areas of town update from the State
- In addition to considering underutilized parking, can alternate parking areas be considered that are not already developed with Tree's

3. Liaison Updates
Shade Tree Commission (Chris)
 - Spotted Lantern Fly update and information available on the website to report and ensure we kill the insects and their larvae
 - Hazardous Tree and Tree Planting in the ROW underway this fall
 - Intervale Road - engagement with the Developer of the Waterview Marketplace (Whole Food, Old Navy, etc...) was successful for their agreement to plant additional Tree's at the top buffer and timing is to be determined

Planning Board (Nick)

- Highview Commercial – PB has asked they strongly consider outsourcing of Laundry Service
- Sunrise – Application for Signage received
- Next meeting is scheduled for Oct 28th
- EDAC – Looking at readdressing zoning of Route 46 West to encourage favorable businesses
- 100 Business owners in ML were identified to create a reach out program for communications
- Mtn Lakes Market Area under consideration to review if plausible to redevelop

Lakes Management (Allison)

- Living Shoreline project has a target start date of Oct 15th.
- Solitude rep confirmed that the high bacteria counts were caused by water temp increase and geese droppings.
- Long range plans for all lakes were discussed- basically need to up the game with hydroraking.
- Scot got back to me via email on 9/19. He says meeting together would be a great idea.
- We will check if any copies of Long Range and/or Living Shoreline Plans were available to MLEC Members

Student Liaisons (Eric/Conrad)

- MLHS Garden has developed with works on the beds

Green Team (Marnie)

- Two submissions were made to Sustainable Jersey and waiting to hear back

4. Any other Business

Meeting was adjourned at 9pm, next meeting scheduled for Tuesday October 19th, 2021 7:30pm