

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION—ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

MAY 23, 2022

1. Call to Order—Roll Call:

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.
- b. Present—Rachel Funcheon, Karen Pennett, Jim and Andy Stout, Doug Speeney, Coraleine Kitt, Council Member Wendy Robinson
- c. Absent—Andy Baldassarre

2. Approval of Minutes—April 25, 2022 Teleconference: The minutes were approved.

3. Reports:

- a. Tree Report—May 2022
 - There were 8 tree inspections with 94 trees to be removed and 26 trees to be replaced. Inspections were completed by Karen Pennett and Karen Twisler. Request was made for Karen Twisler to give more detail on tree inspections when an EC member cannot be present.
 - b. Planning Board—Closed session—No report.
 - c. Recycling
 - New Legacy Books—The site was changed and bin will be located along the driveway, on pavement near the voting drop box between the Firehouse and the Firemen's Exempt Building. Advertising the project will start once the bin is installed with proceeds going to the Friends of the Library. NLB is waiting for new bins to come in.
 - Styrofoam—Collection will be June 4, 2022 at DPW Garage, 880 Somerset St., from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Volunteers are needed, and the Green Team was suggested. A sign will be made to put out on Somerset St. the day of the collection. Event was advertised in the Echoes-Sentinel.
 - Bottle Caps—Plastic bottle caps can be brought to Rachel's driveway in closed plastic bags and placed in the recycling bin by her garage for recycling with TerraCycleHome.
 - d. Green Team/Farmers Market—The market opens on June 7, 2022 with 12-16 vendors. Along with available foodstuffs, there will be activities on different dates, like live goats, a bee demonstration, and a woman who does bubbles. There will be larger and brighter signage to indication location in the Police Dept. parking lot.

4. Unfinished Business:

- a. Best Lake Planting Update—The seedlings are thriving and almost all have leafed out. The Salem Oak seedling planted at Watchung Lake is also flourishing.
- b. Board of Adjustment Application—What was spoken about at the previous meeting was memorialized at their meeting on May 12. The Board voted 8-0 to approve the use variance. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2022 at 7:30 PM, when a new design plan will be presented to address the Board's concerns about density, green space and parking.

5. New Business:

- a. Reusable Bags—500 more bags were ordered. Money from the Clean Communities Council will pay for the bags, and their logo was added to the front of the bags. If bags arrive in time, they will be available at the Styrofoam recycling event and the Farmers' Market.
- b. Paving at Best Lake Parking Lot—Frank Bisignano offered to pave the Borough-owned gravel part of the parking lot. Concerns were expressed about the area being flood-prone and about storm runoff going into the stream with petroleum pollutants from the asphalt. The need for more stormwater control measures and the impact of increased flooding in that area were discussed. Green infrastructure was suggested. Hay bales could be used for 6 months to prevent oil runoff from new pavement at which time a filtration plan (bio-retention

system or rain garden) will be incorporated. The landscaper will work with the T & B Committee, and the EC will become involved. A sign could be posted to serve educational purposes for the community.

c. Neighborhood Sapling Rescue—It was suggested that a tree sapling opportunity be made available where residents needing to remove saplings could offer them to others for free. The resident wanting the sapling could do the digging and moving. Advertising could be done on the Borough website, on Facebook, and in the fall newsletter to suggest how residents can connect.

d. Other

--Town Festivals--It was observed that recycling buckets having holed lids, and clearly labeled, need to be placed next to garbage cans at town festivals and other events. Rachel will reach out to the county. Clean Communities funds could be used to purchase bins with Mobus Field and Best Lake as suggested locations.

--Northeast Side of Best Lake—Chocolate colored sediment building up in Best Lake is entering lake from a pipe during rain events. It is a water quality issue and a cost to the Borough if dredging is required. Council Member Robinson will consult the town engineer regarding this.

6. Special Announcements, Correspondence:

--The Mayor's Regatta is June 11, 2022 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. There will be canoe races, and volunteers from various town organizations are encouraged to participate.

7. Public Comment: None

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM with the next meeting scheduled for June 20, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy Stout (Secretary) and Jim Stout (Assistant to the Secretary)

June 2022 Tree Report

Tree inspections 8

Trees to be removed 84

Trees to be replaced 2

Inspections completed by K. Pennett Watchung Environmental Commission

61 Carrar: 10 Trees, Ashes two of which are three stemmed. No Replacements

115 Redmont: 8 Trees original application 6 trees, added 2 oak & birch Replace 1

744 Mountain Ave: 10 Trees: New Construction, discussed January 2022 12 Trees Report
Replace 1

- 1 Ash

- 8 Conifers poor condition

- 1 Maple, driveway expansion

25 Robin Glen: 7 Trees, no replacements

- 1 Cherry, dead

- 1 Maple, 4 stemmed, diseased

- 4 Ashes

- 1 Maple Dead

59 Robin Glen: 11 Trees original application 5, added ashes, No Replacements

- 1 Black Oak, dangerous

- 1 unknown

- 9 Ashes

24 Washington Rock: 7 Trees, Ashes, dead, No Replacements

131 Anderson: 19 Trees, application 18 trees 19 trees marked, Ashes, No Replacements

- 3 of trees on steep slope, ok to take down, leave stump

70 Scott Drive: 12 Trees, original application 8 all Ashes. No replacements. Verification needed for 4 trees on side of house, whose property they are on. If on neighboring property responsibility of neighbor