

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
March 19, 2014
7:30 P.M.
Room 206, Town Hall

Chairman Riccardo called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M

Commission Members Present: Vickie Riccardo, Wynne Shapiro, Alan Armstrong, and Eric Joosten

Staff: Jacobson

Court Reporter: Syat

Recorded by Channel 79

Ms. Riccardo called the public hearing to order:

EPC-46-2013, Darien Athletic Foundation, 80 High School Lane, proposing conversion of existing natural turf fields to synthetic turf, and enlarge existing detention basin within an upland review area. The site is shown on Assessor's Map #9 as Lot #'s 80 & 81.

Joe Canas, P.E., and Certified Floodplain Manager, Tighe & Bond, represented the Applicant. He said there were two outstanding issues from the previous hearing. He said the soil testing and the survey were both completed. He said the survey confirmed that there will be no fill placed in the floodplain.

Mr. Flaherty confirmed that he was satisfied with the survey results.

Mr. Canas said the soil testing in the area of the wet basin showed they will need to provide a restrictive clay layer. He said the test holes confirmed the infiltration rates and determined that nine inches of stone will provide adequate water quality treatment. In the northwest field they encountered good soils and no bedrock. He said the design is, therefore, more conservative than necessary, but they will not change it.

Mr. Flaherty said he reviewed the plans and test results and finds the plans conform to the DEEP water quality standards, flood damage prevention standards, and erosion & sediment control standards.

Ms. Riccardo entered into the record an e-mail from Liz Mao with concerns. She said the concerns are more related to Planning & Zoning Commission issues.

Ms. Riccardo asked Mr. Canas to address Mr. Sweeney's e-mail regarding zinc.

Mr. Canas said the DEEP study describes treatment methods. He said those methods include a treatment train wet ponds, infiltration structures, vortech units and stormwater basins. He said

the Applicant will using those mitigation methods. He said the wet pond will have a forebay to remove sediments to make removal of sediments easier which will remove pollutants. He said zinc is a component of runoff from other sources including fertilizer and vehicles.

Mr. Flaherty said the DEEP study provides the methods to mitigate for zinc and the Applicant has followed these methods.

Ms. Shapiro asked about the zinc concentration building up in the system. Mr. Flaherty the main way zinc is removed from the system is adsorption to soil particles. He said the zinc will accumulate over time but would take many years to get close to concentrations that would be a problem.

M. Riccardo raised the issue of maintenance of the fields and funding, which would be required to be approved by the Board of Education and the Board of Finance.

Mr. Joosten said he would like to see the maintenance plan signed off by a representative of the Board of Education.

Ms. Shapiro said she would also like to see the maintenance funded.

Mr. Canas said they have designed the project to make maintenance easier.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Joosten seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

The Commission discussed the application briefly. Mr. Joosten said the turf fields could have a positive impact if fertilizers and pesticides are no longer necessary.

It was the consensus of the members present that the issue of flood damage prevention has been adequately addressed. The Commission will deliberate and possibly make a decision at their April 2 meeting.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Seconded seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Jacobson
Environmental Protection Officer