



Contact: Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
(201) 460-4619; (201) 615-8570 (cell)
brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov

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NJMC To Consider Facelift in Lyndhurst

Board will vote on studying elimination of heavy industrial sites on Orient Way

LYNDHURST, N.J. – As the Township of Lyndhurst prepares to open its new recreation fields near Valley Brook Avenue, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission staff is recommending a collaborative effort to help ensure the health and safety of children using the fields and those living and working in the community. The NJMC Board of Commissioners will consider a study next week as a first step towards the elimination of heavy industrial sites near the ballfields.

“The NJMC takes the concerns of Lyndhurst residents very seriously,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “By recommending to eliminate the heavy industrial zone along Orient Way in the Meadowlands District, we could significantly improve the quality of life in the neighborhood.”

Township residents have raised concerns about the health and environmental impact of an excavation, demolition and recycling company, Bedroc Contracting, located on Orient Way at the foot of Marin Avenue, adjacent to the new fields. Residents have said that noise caused by stone-crushing operations and truck traffic is impacting their health and welfare and that dust emanating from the site into the neighborhood and onto the ballfields may be harmful.

“Bedroc’s operation clearly poses a concern for Lyndhurst,” said Lyndhurst Mayor Richard DiLascio. “Noise, dust, truck traffic, and water runoff present health and safety issues that we in Lyndhurst believe are not being adequately addressed.”

The NJMC has taken action against Bedroc on several occasions, fining the company a total of \$4,000 for property maintenance violations and operating a stone-crushing facility without approval. The state Department of Environmental Protection has visited the site but has not found any violations.

The Bedroc property has been zoned for heavy industrial use since the NJMC’s inception 40 years ago, but the surrounding neighborhood has changed over time. If the study is

approved at the July 8 Commission meeting, the public will be able to weigh in on what the area should look like.

“As a planning agency the NJMC has always encouraged public participation to help mold its policies and regulations,” Ceberio said. “A collaborative effort is the best way to address the needs of the community.”

Frank Weidner, owner of Bedroc Contracting, said he has long been open to a rezoning of the property. “I’d love for a higher and better use for the property,” Weidner said. “I am more than happy to cooperate as long as it makes sense.”

The NJMC is in the process of scheduling a meeting with township officials, the NJDEP and the property owner to ensure that Bedroc conforms to current zoning regulations and all applicable environmental laws.