



Lionel Frank Obtains Approval for Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association



Lionel J. Frank

On January 11, 2012, Lionel J. Frank represented the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association (SBMWA) before the Hopewell Township Zoning Board of Adjustment seeking a "d.(2)" variance allowing the expansion of a non-conforming use, and preliminary and final site plan approval to construct

a new 10,108 square foot state-of-the-art environmental center and the renovation of the existing Buttinger Nature Center.

The SBMWA is a nonprofit corporation which is committed to protecting the water and environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education. The New Environmental Center will employ cutting edge sustainability features such as geothermal heating and cooling, natural sun lighting, a roof that includes natural grasses to reduce stormwater runoff and a wetlands-based wastewater treatment system.

It has been designed to meet the LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program, by consuming no more energy than it produces.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment unanimously approved the application after hearing testimony from design, engineering and environmental experts, and concluding that there were "special reasons" under the Municipal Land Use Law to grant the use variance which will benefit the public and be an example of good design and construction of future projects in Mercer County, New Jersey and the nation.

The SBMWA manages 930 acres in Hopewell Township. The New Environmental Center will increase the SBMWA's environmental science studies and educational offerings with the addition of a laboratory, computer learning center, classrooms and exhibit halls open to schoolchildren, researchers and the public.



Rendering of the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Environmental Center

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Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

101 Grovers Mill Road, Suite 200

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609.275.0400

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