**BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**AGENDA, FEBRUARY 27, 2014**

Call to order and attendance.

January minutes for approval.

**Correspondence and updates:**

Oaths to be signed by Dave, Lisa, James, Jim (Dave to administer). Jim Reinhold appointed to Alternate I seat by Mayor Oscovitch at the 2/4 Township Council meeting. (At the 2/18 Council meeting, Michelle appointed as EC liaison to the Open Space Committee.)

NJ Shade Tree Federation membership cards for everyone.

Soil importation ordinance: Dave update. Margaret sent new Google maps showing soil deposition on Roseville Road parcels to Sussex County Soil Conservation as an FYI and asking about Highlands regulations vis a vis the wetlands/vernal pond there. No response.

Grant application submitted to NJDEP forestry program: Seeking $3,000 to update our Community Forestry Plan for the years 2015-2019, with $3,000 in-kind match.

Sussex County GIS program: Dave Kunz will attend the March 27 EC meeting (in main meeting room) to make presentation on new Sussex County GIS ‘virtual site visit.’ He will also present at the 3/20 Planning Board meeting. Merge the presentations?

Seeking volunteers for spring frog/salamander count at Waterloo Road: MacKenzie Hall at the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ is asking for RSVPs to get on her volunteer call list: Mackenzie.cwf@gmail.com. She thanked our EC and Police Department for their help last year.

NJ Tree Recovery Campaign: To replant after the Sandy storm. Up to 2000 seedlings available in bundles of 5; to be distributed for free to residents by April 19. Margaret asked science teacher Patti Poff if she is interested.

March 22 Land Conservation Rally: Rutgers, Piscataway. 21 workshops, including trail building, economic growth and land preservation, land stewardship etc. $75.

Byram Day email list: Margaret made a list of those who submitted email addresses to be used for EC outreach activities. In Margaret’s Google contact list under “EC residents mailing list.”

**Business:**

Easement monitoring pilot project: Update from Scott and Cathy. Highlands Council staff sent draft excel spreadsheet and instructions on using free software to add photos to the spreadsheet and linking them to GPS coordinates. Eileen Swan to attend EC March meeting?

 ANJEC annual grants: Deadline April 2 for up to $1,500 for open space stewardship grants. Apply? Link to easement project?

Partnership with science teacher Patti Poff: The school’s Earth Day is Saturday May 3, noon to 4. Margaret is trying to book the Grand Falloons to do a recycling performance, as requested by Patti Poff. EC participation to help promote recycling? See January minutes for discussion.

 Also, Musconetcong Watershed Association is conducting river testing and needs someone in the Lubbers Run area. Patti may volunteer—training in March.

Planning Board:

* Seekamp—application for addition and second story at end of Weasaug Trail (Block 187 Lot 1. Awaiting revisions or more application materials, on which the EC will be copied. EC did submit comments on initial application. On April 3 Planning Board agenda.
* Rubenstein—application for new house with steep slope issues: 1 – 3 Lake Drive West (Block 236 Lot 249.01 & 249.02). Some new information based on Planning Board engineer’s comments. On March 6 Planning Board agenda.
* Lorman house at 4 Meteor Trail (application submitted under Sulovski)(Block 172, Lot 1): to repair fire damage and raise ridge of main roof 2 feet (to 8 feet). Questions about whether there were permits to create the second floor and basement bedrooms (owner testified that there were); no information about septic system, except that it may be a 750-gallon metal tank. Planning Board approved on 1/16, conditioned on septic review by Township Board of Health (at the BoH March 25 meeting). PB resolution required “removal” of two bedrooms.
* Septic issues—Township Board of Health is discussing meeting with EC to discuss improving septic reviews vis a vis Planning Board applications. 2005 SC Division of Health letter outlines a good process, which is not followed.

Trails:

* *Update of Trail Guide and display map:* Three poster maps received—lamination costs need another EC discussion/vote ($66 per 3’ x 5’ map at Gravity Design in Newton, 973-940-0300, using ‘luster’ laminating material, whereas earlier quote was $52.50). CCG Marketing Solutions printing the brochure ($1,450 for 3,000 copies), with costs split between between EC and Recreation Department—problems with the file; Margaret resolving errors with The Land Conservancy of NJ before CCG goes ahead with printing.
* *Brookwood Park project:* Park sign finished; to be installed in spring.
* *Other park signs:* Margaret and Recreation Director Janet Meisner drafting a Request for Quotes for up to four other park signs, similar in design to the Brookwood sign.
* *EC advocacy for Cutoff trail:* Letters of support from Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners and from NY-NJ Trial Conference; letter of support from Hopatcong EC, and Margaret recontacted Knowlton EC about sending a formal letter. 2007 Byram Township Council resolution supporting Cut-off trail. No response again from the Knowlton EC (Margaret emailed them again today). Move ahead?

Musconetcong River: Michelle update.

Draft of new ordinance regarding chickens: Scott update.

**New Business:**

Applying to be Tree City USA: NJDEP Foresters say we will qualify and recommend it. Listed as a goal in our Community Forestry Plan. Good PR and helps to get grants. Also for compliance with our CFP.

Prevent roadside cutting of milkweed while monarchs are using it: Cranberry Lake resident calling for this; has spoken to DPW without effect. Map the areas? Shift the mowing times?

**Adjourn**.