**BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**AGENDA, MARCH 27, 2014**

Call to order and attendance.

Presentation of ‘virtual site visit’ by Dave Kunz from the Sussex County GIS office. (Byram to decide what features we want and to find out which will be supplied with no cost. Tie in with easement monitoring project?)

February minutes for approval.

**Correspondence and updates:**

April 12 Musconetcong Wateshed Association annual cleanup: Val Thorpe at MSA to advise Margaret about where ECers could volunteer. Individualss can register with Val: val@musconetcong.org.

Frog/salamander count at Waterloo Road: MacKenzie Hall at the Conserve Wildlife Foundation Mackenzie.cwf@gmail.com. More counts may be scheduled. Michelle went to the first one.

NJ Tree Recovery Campaign: Seedlings to replant after the Sandy storm. Donna has spoken to Scout Troop 276, but missed deadline; will be offered in 2015. (200,000 trees were requested.)

March 22 Land Conservation Rally: Rutgers, Piscataway. Donna attended.

ANJEC grant application: Seeking $1,500 for nine trail signs and two C.O. Johnson park signs. Council to OK application on April 1; deadline April 2; award notifications by April 24; one year timeline. Nine small trail signs for $337 (actual price from Fossil Graphics); two C.O. Johnson Park signs for c.$1,278 (based on existing estimates). Margaret and Janet will send out an RFQ for the park signs. ***Will the EC fund the trail signs if the grant is not awarded?***

Soil importation ordinance: Dave to will discuss with Lisa, who was on original PB subcommittee. 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. Cliff Lundin will check when weather is better to check distance to vernal pond and if soil is spread and stabilized (seeded). EC could submit draft ordinance to Council and Planning Board at same time, which establishes a timeframe for consideration. Michelle: look into Warren Township best-practices check list (ANJEC award).

Preservation of 294-acre Gallo tract in Hopatcong: Along the route of the Highlands Trail, which is the connector from Byram into Hopatcong (where there is now a road walk).

Applying to be Tree City USA: EC voted in February to apply; Margaret working on application.

**Business:**

Elect new chair-person: Dave Gray appointed to Council seat and will be Council liaison to the EC.

Easement monitoring pilot project: Consultant Lucy Halsey to be hired and will work with EC. Scott Olson and Eileen Swan and Lucy to attend April EC meeting.

Partnership with science teacher Patti Poff: The school’s Earth Day is Saturday May 3, noon to 4. The Grand Falloons will do a recycling performance--$850 fee split between the school and the Township’s recycling grant. **EC participation to help promote recycling? See January minutes for discussion.**

Planning Board:

* Seekamp—application for addition and second story at end of Weasaug Trail (Block 187 Lot 1. On April 3 Planning Board agenda. Applicant submitted landscaping plan, based on EC recommendations---native species at shoreline and elsewhere on lot.
* Rubenstein—application for new house with steep slope issues: 1 – 3 Lake Drive West (Block 236 Lot 249.01 & 249.02). On March 6 Planning Board agenda--approved. Drilling new well.
* 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.
* Lanci: 27 Meteor Trail. Proposing a second story. On May 1 Planning Board agenda.

Trails:

* *Update of Trail Guide and display map:* Two poster maps laminated @ $66; one hung up in main meeting room and the other in the administration lobby; the third is stored in a tube in Margaret’s office. TLC-NJ still repairing errors in the trails brochure file, to send to Margaret and CCG Marketing Solutions for printing the brochure ($1,450 for 3,000 copies).
* *Park/trail signage:* Brookwood Park sign finished; to be installed in spring. Used as model for proposals for C.O. Johnson Park signs and future signs at Neil Gylling and Mohawk View etc. RFQ for C. O. Johnson signs to be mailed out.
* *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. Next steps.

Musconetcong River: Table.

Draft of new ordinance regarding chickens: Table.

Protecting/planting milkweed for monarchs: More information.

**New business:**

Arbor Day events: Friday, April 25. Dedicate tree to Peg Swentzel. Plant more?

Report on contamination at NJDOT garage: In 1997 three leaking USTs were removed. NJDEP in 2004 asked for re-evaluation and work plan to delineate site. Consultant assigned; NJDOT needs to supply funding.

Draft Master Plan Highlands Element: Discussed at Planning Board; further discussion at Planning Board; public hearing; adoption , possibly by summer. Margaret emailed copy of draft to all.

Trail passage under 206: Need for a link into Allamuchy Mountain State Park.

**Adjourn**.