

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

AGENDA, AUGUST 27, 2015

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: July 23 minutes.

Correspondence and updates:

Steep slope ordinance: EC memo to Zoning Officer recommending that prohibitions on disturbing sensitive features be extended to all circumstances, not only when permits or approvals are sought from the Township. No response; EC decided to wait until Zoning Officer has time to consider.

Community Forestry Management Plan: Donna Koenig is reading this to understand EC's obligations; Margaret has requested clarification of training requirements.

Articles:

From ANJEC report: USEPA toughens underground storage regulations, including for State programs; NJDEP preservation of 81-acre parcel in Millville to stand, in spite of Township/County efforts to cancel the deal.

Rutgers Center for Green Building at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy: flyer describing how they promote 'green building.'

Tree City USA bulletin: The Right Tree for the Right Place. Use for article in local newspapers as part of EC's annual 2-article obligation?

Sustainable Jersey anti-idling programs: Margaret answered a short survey; more than 200 communities have an anti-idling project, which is usable for Sustainable Jersey certification.

Business:

Membership: Donna Koenig must resign as a member, as she will be taking Margaret's job, including as EC secretary. Katie Parrish's status as Alternate I? Potentially one regular and two alternate seats open. (NOTE: Byram resident with degree in environmental sciences called about possible job; Margaret has her name/number.)

Conservation Easement grant: Grant is closed out. Next phases: 1. William Penn Foundation grant for New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Musconetcong Watershed Association, North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development to work on conservation easements on specific Byram parcels (Scott Olson and Margaret provided possible list and tour on July 22; no report on the meeting yet). 2. Establish Township process for imposing/recording/monitoring/enforcing easements and for updating the Easement Inventory spreadsheet. Zoning Officer Tom Dixon and Township Manager, as well as Scott, involved.

Soil ordinance: Subcommittee of John, Katie, Dave to provide draft ordinance to be submitted to Planning Board and Council at once.

Planning Board:

- Applications:
 - ✓ Consolidated School apartments: 21 apartments (2 studio, 16 one-bedroom, 3 two-bedroom); 4 are COAH Affordable Housing. Plans available for review; on Sept. 3 Planning Board agenda. Comments from Architectural Review Committee emailed to EC on 8/24/15.
 - ✓ Planning Board discussions and definitions: Lisa. 1. Definition of ‘new house’; Jim’s suggestion that definition stipulate that “once all first-floor walls are down, the structure becomes a new house,” regardless of why the walls came down. 2. Clarification that withholding a C.O. is not a good tool to enforce conditions in Planning Board resolutions?

Trails:

- Brookwood Park: DPW will maintain entrance; EC work day in September (Jim to schedule)---poison ivy, terracing steep section, removing big downed trees (Jim received his chain saw certification). Manager also again discussing better guardrails; grant submitted to buy trash/recycling containers for all parks.
- 20 trailhead signs: DPW has installed 19 of 20; last one (where Cat Swamp Connector meets Highlands Trail) also to be installed.
- Johnson Lake: another work day?
- Tri-Community Trail sign: when to install; inaccuracy re: Highlands Trail (sign is in Margaret’s office and post is in supply closet).
- Status of campaign for Cutoff trail.

Forestry:

- No Net Loss tree planting grant application: \$317,554 for 1,058 trees; work period does not start until grant agreement signed and executed (Margaret is getting exact start date). Then we have 54 months to complete the work, with about a year of that to get a contractor and develop detailed planting plan and two years at end for tree survival. Margaret and Donna working on initial general planting plan to show to Township

Manager, who will ask Township engineer to do detailed planting plan; then go out for bids for contractor to finish the work.

- Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager.
- Planting of detention basins: At Township Manager's request, Margaret obtained proposal from Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program to design planting plans for 4 basins: \$1,200 (Jeremiah Bergstrom, 609-433-0582 ©; jbergstrom@envsci.rutgers.edu). *Manager suggested some NNL trees might be used at these sites (large weedy basin at C.O. Johnson Park, one at Marra Lane and one at Partridge Run, plus one at Ascot Lane, which is actually split into two parts on either side of entrance road).*

Byram Day: Emphasis is on nature and history. EC booth:

- Salamander presentation—Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, 908-782-4614. Kelly Triage (Kelly.triece@conservewildlifenj.org) reports that Lindsay McNamara will be at Byram Day (willing to stay all day). Margaret working out details with Kelly, who will put Lindsay in contact with Donna Koenig.
- Fly fishing demo, in field (needs 100' x 30'): White Water Flies; Purchase Order in place for \$60 fee; paid after Byram Day (www.whitewaterflies.com, 222 Rt. 15, Lafayette, 973-600-0123, 201-230-5455).
- Where Is This? Photo contest: Pix of Waterloo; go find the spot; prize is two tickets to Harvest Moon Festival (Marie Raffay is holding two for the EC, \$70 for both).
- Entire village available for tables: EC booth to be near large lawn for fly-fishing demo; location discussed with Scott and Janet.
- Hang recycling signs; submit photo and article to newspapers; also mention Community Forestry Management Plan (EC is required to print 2 articles each year under the CFMP).
- Margaret submitted vendor application and asked Janet about EC tent.
- Idea for forming garden club: Township Manager does not want any involvement with Route 206 landscaping, until issues with NJDOT are resolved.

Musconetcong River: Michelle/Scott. MWA/MRMC re: coffer dams under Route 206 bridge—status? William Penn Foundation grant funding for projects including Lubbers Run?

Report from EC liaison to Open Space Committee: Michelle. Land swap with Wild West City.

Report from Dave Gary, Council liaison to EC: Better process with Sussex County Division of Health and with Planning Board applications.

Expenditures and budget:

- Recycling Center signage--\$136: quote from SignArts (aluminum 11 x 17 signs with vinyl graphics @ \$34); ordered and being produced. They will email us to pick up when ready.
- Shrubs for Lubbers Run buffer at Neil Gylling Memorial Park--\$159.76: from Sunnyside (four blueberry @ \$19.99) and Gardens of the World (four clethra @ \$19.95); Margaret picked them up; need to set planting date.
- Blazes with QR code to on-line Trails Brochure, to add to trailhead sign posts: from Voss Signs; 100 for \$196. Ordered and will be shipped.
- EC is to prepare preliminary 2016 budget *TONIGHT*: Margaret emailed last four years of expenditures and current budget; Township Manager sent form to be filled out.

Adjourn.