

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

AGENDA, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: Aug. 27 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 to read and understand EC's obligations for keeping our Community Forestry status; Margaret requested clarification of training requirements which I will report at the October EC meeting. There has been a change in the Community Forestry Program at NJ State Forestry Services, Carrie Sargeant has replaced Alec McCartney and is now the Forestry contact/coordinator for NJ. As soon as she "adjusts" to her new role, I will be in touch regarding our responsibilities.

Business:

Membership: Haven't heard from anyone to date regarding the open seats (one regular and two alternate) on the EC. Do we want to advertise the position during Byram Day?

Conservation Easement grant: Grant is closed out. I am in the process of going through Margaret's notes and computer files regarding involvement in the future of imposing/recording/monitoring/enforcing easements and for updating the Easement Inventory spreadsheet. Zoning Officer and Township Manager, as well as Scott, are involved.

Soil ordinance: Subcommittee of John, Dave to report on the draft ordinance to be submitted to Planning Board and Council.

Updating Sussex County's Open Space and Recreation Plan: Received a letter from Barbara Heskins Davis, Vice President Open Space Plan, seeking volunteer(s) to help in the updating of the County's 2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan – focusing on identifying important conservation land in Sussex County and expanding existing recreational areas including trails, as

well as developing programs to protect water quality and wildlife. The meeting will take about an hour and be held on Thursday, October 22nd, at 11:30. Let me know if anyone wants to attend. I will bring copies of the letter to the meeting.

Planning Board:

- Applications:
 - ✓ Consolidated School apartments: comments sent to Cheryl. Scheduled for Planning Board agenda Oct. 1st.
 - ✓ James and Bonnie Oscovitch, 43 Meteor Trail. Upgrade and extend existing house. Scheduled for Planning Board agenda Oct. 1st

Trails:

- Brookwood Park: EC work day scheduled for October 17th - steep section, removing big downed trees. Manager also again discussing better guardrails; grant submitted to buy trash/recycling containers for all parks.
- Johnson Lake: another work day?
- Status of campaign for Cutoff trail.
- Blazes with QR code to on-line Trails Brochure, to add to trailhead sign posts

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. I am meeting with Jeff Tandell Thursday morning to discuss possible planting sites and suggestions that were sent in from various committees and residents. 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. Joe Sabatini 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).* Donna will follow up on this.
- Margaret, Lisa, and Donna planted 8 shrubs at Lubbers Run buffer - Neil Gylling Memorial Park.

Byram Day: EC booth:

- Salamander presentation—Lindsay McNamara will be at Byram Day (willing to stay all day). I contacted Lindsay and will meet her at the entrance at 11AM

- Fly fishing demo, 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: Waterloo photos, match the photo with list of titles, prize is two tickets to Harvest Moon Festival (Marie Raffay is holding two for the EC, \$70 for both) **Carole Johnson winner**
- Entire village available for tables: EC booth to be near large lawn for fly-fishing demo; Will find out our location Thursday morning and will email all involved
- 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)
- Hand out postcards informing residents of bi-monthly recycle pick up

Expenditures and budget:

- Preliminary 2016 budget completed using past expenditure reports and future predicted events. Will print and pass out during the meeting.

Ongoing

- Musconetcong River: Michelle
- Report from EC liaison to Open Space Committee: Michelle.

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

Adjourn.