

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

AGENDA, OCTOBER 22, 2015

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: Sept. 24, 2015 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.
- Soil ordinance: Subcommittee of John, Dave to report on the draft ordinance to be submitted to Planning Board and Council
- Ongoing: Community Forestry Management Plan: Review the 5 year (2015 – 2019) management plan, put together by Farr Forestry Services, LLC, so we keep up to date with programs and requirements that will maintain Byram's status with the DEP's NJ State Forestry Services.
- Email from Nicole at the Stanhope Environmental Commission. Inquiring about trail maintenance projects for Lenape Valley Go Green Club students who need service project hours.

Business:

- Membership: Looking to fill open seats (one regular and two alternate) on the EC. No response from Byram Day advertising – yet.
- Updating Sussex County's Open Space and Recreation Plan: Meeting to be held on Thursday, October 22nd, at 11:30 in the Municipal Bldg. by Land Conservancy of NJ. Asking for members of Open Space Comm., EC, Planning Board, and any town officials to attend.
- Annual notice of 2016 meeting dates: Notice of meeting dates from Jan. 2016 – Jan. 2017 need to be approved.
- Update *Help Keep our Lanes and Streams Clean!* Just a few remaining copies of this postcard (I will bring a few to the meeting) is there a need for a new one? And if so, should we add comments from Rich Shernce about being mindful of using licensed insured landscapers, pesticide companies, and contractors to prevent illegal dumping and compensation claims.

Planning Board:

- Applications:
 - ✓ Tom Alfsen, 44 Birch Parkway, Lake Mohawk. Upgrade and add a level to existing “not habitable” home.

Trails:

- Brookwood Park: EC work day was rescheduled due to Byram Charity Hike
- 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
- 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger 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. Joe, Scott, Matt Morris (Harold E. Pellow & Assoc.) and I met with Jeff Tandell Thursday, 9/24 to discuss deadlines and procedures, 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 following up on this.

Byram Day EC booth:

- Lindsay McNamara from Conserve Wildlife Federation attended till about 1 pm. Had forms and brochures to distribute, no critters. Greg from Whitewater Flies stayed for most of the day.
- Waterloo photo contest was won by Carole Johnson. Arranged for her to pick up Harvest Moon Festival tickets at the door.

Expenditures and budget:

- Preliminary 2016 budget completed and turned in.
- \$70 for Harvest Moon Fest, \$60 for Greg from Whitewater Flies signed off

Reports from committees:

- Musconetcong River: Michelle
- Open Space Committee: Michelle.
- Council: Dave Gary

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

Adjourn.