

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 23, 2015 Agenda

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: Oct. 24, 2015 minutes

Correspondence and updates:

- Putting EC photos on the website.
- Ongoing - 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.

Business:

- Tilcon annual quarry licensing application: James will attend quarry visit, November 18th
- Resolution for 2016 EC meeting dates: Notice of meeting dates from Jan. 2016 – Jan. 2017
- Update Help Keep our Lanes and Streams Clean! postcard: Is there a need for a new, updated postcard? And if so, should we add comments from Rich Sherne about being mindful of using licensed insured landscapers, pesticide companies, and contractors to prevent illegal dumping and compensation claims. Cathy reviewing the postcard.
- Membership: Looking to fill open seats (one regular and two alternate)

Planning Board:

- Applications: None this month.

Trails:

- Brookwood Park: Downed tree removed, table and benches in. Will address trail maintenance in the spring
- Johnson Lake: Spring clean up
- Status of campaign for Cutoff trail.
- Blazes with QR code need to be added 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
- Geocaching – idea to get residents familiar with trails, EC could create a geocaching treasure /scavenger hunt (spring 2016)

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. 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. Can the EC as a group, come up with areas that would benefit
- Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager.
- Planting designs for 4 detention basins: Designs from Jeremiah Bergstrom of Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program postponed to spring 2016. *Might be able to coordinate using NNL trees 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 contact Jeremiah early next year (Jeremiah Bergstrom, 609-433-0582, jbergstrom@envsci.rutgers.edu).

Expenditures and budget:

- Membership renewal for NY-NJ Trail Conference: \$50
- Membership renewal for ANJEC

Reports from committees:

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

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

Adjourn.