

# BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## December 21, 2015 Agenda

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: Nov. 23, 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: distribute 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 18<sup>th</sup>
- 2016 meeting dates posted on website.
- 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 Shernce 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) John Boyer and Katie Parish memberships expire, both John and Katie need to re-join (verbally is good) by end of December.
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grants for Open Space Stewardship projects. NJ EC's will be eligible to apply for an ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant of up to \$1500 in 2016. Approximately 15 commissions will be selected for the one-year grant. Maybe we can collaborate with Open Space Committee or Patty Poff & students. Anyone have a project in mind? Suitable projects include:
  - Open space or trails assessments, plans, maps
  - Conservation easement inventory, monitoring, outreach, education
  - Programs to involve residents with local open space
  - Printed or online guides, maps, inventories of open space, trails
  - Trail building, signage, maintenance
  - Management of invasive species
  - Habitat enhancement on open lands
  - Restoration or maintenance of riparian areas within preserved public open space
  - Multi-town plans to link open space or trails
  - Open space displays for public events or spaces
  - Educational stormwater management projects on preserved public open space

### **Planning Board Applications:**

- Brian Church, Block 317 Lot 20.01 – Variance of existing non-conforming features

## **Trails:**

- Blazes with QR code need to be added to trailhead sign posts, copies made of all sites with posts if any EC member(s) want to attach blazes.
- 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail
- *Spring*: Brookwood Park trail maintenance
- *Spring*: Johnson Lake clean up
- *Ongoing*: Status of campaign for Cutoff 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: Further reading of the awarded grant allows us some flexibility to design the planting plan that will work best for Byram. It is NOT a problem if we do not use all of the funds, and there are no penalties.
- Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager.

## **Expenditures and budget:**

- Membership renewal for NY-NJ Trail Conference: \$50
- Membership renewal for ANJEC: \$395
- Re-certify for Tree City USA - part of the annual work plan for Byram's Comm. Forestry Mngt. \$15

## **Reports from committees:**

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

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

## **Adjourn.**