

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 28, 2016 Agenda

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: Dec. 21, 2015 and Jan. 28, 2016

Correspondence and updates:

- Soil ordinance: Tabled.
- Steep slope ordinance: Emailed a copy of the ordinance 240 29.2 to all members on January 29th.
- Ongoing: Community Forestry Management Plan: 5 year (2015 – 2019) management plan distributed to keep up to date with programs and requirements that will maintain Byram's status with the DEP's NJ State Forestry Services.
- 2015 Environmental Commission Achievements – Passed out for comments/questions

Business:

- Tilcon annual quarry licensing application: Will pass around Cory Stoner's review.
- Update *Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean!* Postcard: Cathy reviewing postcard.
- Membership: Steve Levy asked to be put on our email list! Thanks Steve.
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant for Open Space Stewardship Projects - Applications due April 1, 2016. Any project suggestions? Talked with Joe S. who suggested using grant money to enhance/update our website to advertise our trails – adding photos, trail descriptions, trail events and maintenance dates, etc.
- Share the Woods signs – Address the issue of posting signs on hiking trails letting people know that during certain seasons hunting is allowed and hikers should be mindful of this. Does the EC want to fund/install signs for this?
- Environmental Commission Training – Three half-day sessions are being offered in March designed for both new and experienced EC'ers. These sessions will include info on networking and natural resources in our community. Will pass out info at the meeting.
- Rabies Clinic volunteers needed April 9th, 9AM – 12Noon, anyone interested in helping out?
- Amphibian Crossing – Waterloo is still priority #1, if you would like to volunteer this year, please send Kelly Treice an email – Kelly.treice@conservewildlifenj.org. Conserve Wildlife continues to look for community and political support for funding the installation of amphibian crossing tunnels along Waterloo Rd. Patty Poff wants to get the kids in the Stem Program involved. She would like the kids to hold a fund raiser as well as help design a tunnel. Also, Patty has asked if the EC would consider funding a presentation on Birds of Prey; Bald Eagles, Osprey, Hawk, etc. hoping to have the kids adopt and implement a nest box that can tracked and monitored. The presentation cost is \$200.
- Arbor Day Celebration – The EC needs to host an Arbor Day Celebration (guidelines for Community Forestry Program). I'll bring a list of Arbor Day projects we can consider.
- Any interest in partnering with Rec. committee to organize and advertise a summer long 50-miler hike?

Discussed with Janet about partnering to organize a 2016 50-miler Hike throughout Township Trails. Beginning April 15th and ending October 15th. Residents will get a chart and be on their own to keep track (pedometer, fit bit, etc.) of weekly miles. Dinner/award celebration at the end of October at a local restaurant.

Planning Board Applications:

- Peter and Susan Mirz – 22 Fieldstone Trail, Sparta. Application for in-ground swimming pool which requires relief from a front yard setback and steep slope disturbance.
- Cartridge Actuated Devices – Old Indian Spring Rd. Addition to an existing structure, removal of 4 trailers, constructions of 3 new structures, new septic system, and various site improvements.

Trails:

- Ongoing - Blazes with QR code to be added to trailhead sign posts in spring
- Ongoing - 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail. Also, need to check the Lee Hill Rd./Ranger Tr. site (Boyd property, right hand side) for trail post which was either never installed, or disappeared.
- *Spring*: Brookwood Park trail maintenance
- *Spring*: Johnson Lake clean up (add bench)
- Report from resident that there are downed trees at the Cranberry Overlook Trail that need to be cleared. Adolf was informed, maybe EC can check out early spring.
- Geocaching – idea to get residents familiar with trails, EC could create a geocaching treasure /scavenger hunt/hike (spring 2016)

Forestry:

- No Net Loss Grant – Several township properties were identified for possible planting designs. Met with Township staff, Cory Stoner, and Matt Morris (Township Engineer and Landscape Arch.) January 22. Matt will visit sites and put together an initial design.
- Ongoing - Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager.

Expenditures and budget: The following membership have been renewed:

- Membership renewal for NY-NJ Trail Conference:
- Membership renewal for ANJEC:
- Musconetcong Watershed Association:
- Arbor Day:
- New Jersey Shade Tree Federation: membership cards to pass out

Reports from committees:

- Musconetcong River: Michelle – Michelle attended December meeting - asked about our representative re-appointment letter - I contacted MRWA, they will *re-send*.
- Open Space Committee: Michelle.
- Council: Dave Gray

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

Adjourn.