

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 28, 2016 Agenda

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: March. 24, 2016

Correspondence and updates:

- 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.
- June 4th – National Trails Day – Discuss enlisting volunteers for Johnson Lake/Cranberry Overlook/or other Township trail for a Trails Day clean-up project.
- May 1st - Run for the River – Sponsored by Musconetcong Watershed Assoc.
- Hike at Mahlon Dickerson Reservation – Saturday, May 21st, 10 am, approx. finish: 1:30 pm.

Meeting Location: 137-157 Weldon Road, Jefferson, NJ The largest park in the Morris County Park System, encompassing 3346.07 acres Mahlon Dickerson Reservation is located at the Northern most point of the Musconetcong Watershed. This 7.5 mile hike will begin on the Highlands Trail on our way to the scenic Hadley Overlook with views of Lake Hopatcong, we will then continue on to the Pine Swamp and Boulder trails past the Highest Point in Morris County (1,395 ft. above sea level) making our way to the Ogden Mine Railroad Trail ending back at our meeting location. Trails will range from easy to moderate, with a minor scramble on the Highlands Trail. Come prepared with proper footwear, water, and a snack to enjoy at the scenic overlook. MWA members are free

- Conserve Wildlife – Stephanie D'Alessio, Director of Education at Conserve Wildlife, offered to put together any kind of Environmental Program we would like - for any age or group.

Business:

- Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean! Postcard: Instead of a postcard, what about a pamphlet, will bring example to March meeting
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant – Grant Application submitted March 30, 2016. Will hear back from ANJEC beginning of May. Grant award is \$1500. This will be used to update our Trails on the website. I'll bring copy of the grant to the meeting. If awarded, EC will be involved in inputting trail information onto the website.
- Share the Woods signs – Donna to contact ANJEC to see how they handle hiking/hunting trails
- Sussex County Day volunteers needed for May 1st to man Township's booth.
- Amphibian Crossing – MacKenzie Hall and Kelly Tiece met with Joe Sabatini and myself to discuss Byram Township being the Grant Applicant for the Amphibian Crossing project on Waterloo Rd. They will write the grant but need the Township to assume responsibility and administration for the project as they are a non-profit agency.

- Arbor Day Celebration – EC and Patti Poff arranged for Stephanie D’Alessio of Conserve Wildlife to speak at the Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration at the Byram Lakes School on April 23, 2016. She discussed NJ Wildlife and protecting their habitat.
- Rec Committee and EC will organize a 50-Miler summer long Hike. This hike involves residents signing up and doing short weekly treks on Township trails, beginning April 15th , ending October 15th . Residents will chart and keep track of their own miles (pedometer, fit bit, etc.). Dinner/award celebration at the end of October at a local restaurant – open for suggestions on awards/prizes.
- Any interest in Vernal Pool (maintenance) and Butterfly Garden creation – both sites on school grounds, both would be working with Patti Poff’s env. groups

Planning Board Applications:

None this month

Trails:

- Create a volunteer email list for spring trail work days. This would be a good example for the ANJEC grant – to be able to email blast subscribers/volunteers about maintenance days.
- Ongoing - Blazes with QR code to be added to trailhead sign posts in spring
- The last 2 Trail head posts - Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail - were installed by DPW.
- DPW graded and hard packed the entrance to Brookwood Trail to meet Rec. Trails Grant specifications.
- **April 30th** - Brookwood Park trail maintenance – email High school volunteers, scouts, JoAnne Beliveau (resident interested in volunteering on trails)
- *Spring:* Johnson Lake clean up (add bench- Scout Eagle Project?)
- 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:

- Ongoing - 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:

- \$565 for membership dues (ANJEC, MWA, NYNJ Trail Conference, Arbor Day, & Shade Tree of our \$2600 budget.
- \$200 – for Conserve Wildlife Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration.

Reports from committees:

- Musconetcong River: Michelle –
- Open Space Committee: Michelle.
- Council: Dave Gray

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

Adjourn.