

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 23, 2016 Agenda

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: May 2016

Correspondence and updates:

- Letter from Warren County Soil Conservation District notifying us that they received a grant to assist farmers in developing animal waste management plans. They are offering, free-of-charge, assistance to Byram residents (farmers) to develop a management plan, so non-point source pollution can be controlled. I will bring Warren County contact info if any member knows of someone who could benefit from this.
- Resolution authorizing the clean up and trail maintenance of Byram Township trails was signed by mayor and council on June 6, 2016.
- Sent an email to Katie Baron inviting her to our June meeting to talk about her butterfly garden project and the *Mayor's Monarch Pledge*
- Green Infrastructure: Sent an email to all members regarding Byram's involvement in NJ's Green Infrastructure program – which aims to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and get more clean water back into the ground. Discuss way the EC can get involved, i.e., rain gardens, street trees where needed, educational material for Byram Day, etc.
- Ongoing: 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:

- Ralph Courtright from Harold E. Pellow & Assoc. is meeting TILCON at the Quarry next Tuesday , 6/28/16, at 10am. Does anyone want or can anyone accompany him?
- Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean! Postcard: Review Cathy's redesign for storm water mngt. mailing – this can be in form of a flyer
- Recycling post cards – Need to be updated, old postcards have incorrect information, need to revise and send out to all residents with the Stormwater notice (instead of post card, we could just do a flyer)
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant – Received \$1000 from ANJEC to start the website revision of our trails page. Joe met with John Byrne about imbedding his Google Maps program with our page. Next step is to contact Navitend.
- Share the Woods signs – Donna to contact ANJEC to see how they handle hiking/hunting trails
- Sussex County Day – postponed again due to inclement weather, next date is September 18, 2018 -- same day and place as *Champions of the Grill* BBQ festival!

- Amphibian Crossing Project – Joe sent a letter of regret to MacKenzie Hall and Kelly Triece regarding Byram Township not being the Grant Applicant, however, the EC can still support Wildlife Conserve in their effort to raise funds to go forth with this project. Do we want Kelly Triece attend one of our meetings to see how the EC can help in the future?
- Vernal Pool (maintenance) and Butterfly Garden creation – Patti Poff interested in creating one on school grounds. Wanted input/help from EC
- Byram Day – Received Vender Application for Byram Day which needs to be returned by August. Will bring info on some of ANJEC’s displays, handouts, and games that are available for loan. They need a couple of weeks notice to reserve any if we decide to borrow (free).
- Septic Management Program – Discuss program and fee
- Retention Basins - Discuss sending a letter to DPW about cleaning then posting “No Dumping” signs at storm drains and retention basins

Planning Board Applications:

4 Cabin Springs Trail – Expansion to existing residence

Trails:

- Created an excel spread sheet to keep track of what trails were maintained, when, and volunteers involved as well as a volunteer email list.
- Ongoing - Blazes with QR code to be added to trailhead sign posts
- White diamond blazes – Township has 100 in inventory
- 50-Miler – Wrote an article that was printed in the June 16 Township Journal. Will have sign up forms and log sheets at the meeting. Celebration at the end of October – open for awards/prizes suggestions.
- Starting to work with Navitend on updating our Trail page on the website.

Forestry:

- 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. The Tree City USA (part of the 5 yr plan) application was sent in on June 20th
- Ongoing: NNL Phase I and II

Expenditures and budget:

- The following memberships have been renewed: \$565 for membership dues (ANJEC, MWA, NYNJ Trail Conference, Arbor Day, & Shade Tree of our \$2600 budget.
- \$200 – to Conserve Wildlife for Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration.

Reports from committees:

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

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

Adjourn.