

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

AGENDA, JUNE 11, 2015

(re-scheduled from regular meeting date of May 28)

Call to order and attendance. April 23 minutes for approval.

Correspondence and updates:

Article—Plant This, Not That: Garden plants to attract wildlife. Avoid cultivars that are derived from naïve plants but bred for certain traits and may have lost their value as habitat (last word of plant name appears in single quotes, e.g. *Rubeckia fulgia* ‘Goldsturm’). Also some questions about butterfly bush—invasive and not butterfly food.

Neil Gylling Park buffer along Lubbers Run: Margaret gave drawing to Adolf and posted signs at edge of buffer. Margaret and Cheryl planted more small trees from Arbor Day delivery.

Article—Riverdale quarry hearing on May 27: Owners of Tilcon’s quarry site in Riverdale charging Tilcon with contamination from by bringing in 20,000 truckloads of asphalt. Tilcon seeking renewal of lease and expansion of operations. Same owner alleges Tilcon abandoned Millington quarry site without clean-up or reclamation and stopped paying property taxes. Tilcon owned by Oldcastle Materials Group, leading US producer of asphalt/concrete/crushed stone, and their parent company is CRH, \$20 billion company based in Dublin, Ireland.

Hudson Farm seeking general wetlands permit authorization from NJDEP (Hopatcong Bl. 50001 L. 1 & 2, Byram Bl. 344 L. 34): For “restoration and habitat improvements on Lubbers Run.” Comment period 30 days+. To restore/create trout habitat at 39 sites along 4,595 feet of the river.

New information from maps in Sussex County Wastewater Management Plan: Natural Heritage Priority Site on parcels encompassing NJ Natural Lands Trust open space, Cowboy Creek area, and on part of Lake Lackawanna Investment Company parcel. C-1 streams very clearly shown at Hudson Farm Westby and along Cutoff rail r.o.w. near the Roseville Road bridge; also main feeder stream into back lake at Cranberry, as well as Cranberry itself, its exit stream (Dragon Brook), and also Jefferson Lake and both of its exit streams (Jefferson is fed by Dragon Brook).

QR code for Township Trails Guide and map: takes you directly to Township website.

Community Forestry Management Plan: Still awaiting OK from State. CSIP grant—NJDEP Community Forestry must review photos of work sites.

Business:

Conservation Easement grant: Brochure ready for mailing; final comments on maps; Eileen Swan to make presentation to Township Council, Planning Board, other committees. Some additional William Penn Foundation funding to continue with review of actual case studies.

Soil ordinance: Subcommittee of John, Katie, Dave to provide draft ordinance to be submitted to Planning Board and Council at once.

Planning Board:

- Applications:
 - ✓ Jefferson Lake Day Camp: on June 4 Planning Board agenda. Amended site plan—replace 4 buildings with 2 buildings. Lisa, Donna visited; nothing to comment on (building is smaller, lakeshore has buffer, site in good order).
 - ✓ Lake Mohawk Pool & Spa: for parking easement on residential lot and for turning tennis courts into parking area; no current application for houses on two residential lots. To return to Planning Board on June 18. Additional comments?
 - ✓ Cartridge Actuated Devices: amended site plan showing work already done, now seeking approvals. To Planning Board on July 16.
 - ✓ Consolidated School apartments: 21 apartments (2 studio, 16 one-bedroom, 3 two-bedroom); 4 are COAH Affordable Housing.
 - ✓ Steep slope ordinance: draft memo to Zoning Officer (Margaret emailed to EC April 28).
 - ✓ Planning Board discussions and definitions: Lisa. 1. Definition of ‘new house’; Jim’s suggestion that definition stipulate that “once all first-floor walls are down, the structure becomes a new house,” regardless of why the walls came down. 2. Clarification that withholding a C.O. is not a good tool to enforce conditions in Planning Board resolutions?

Trails:

- Spring trail work and National Trails Day (June 1: work at Johnson Lake): Jefferson-Glen Bike Trail in good shape. Brookwood Park needs work days (we did not receive the 2015 ANJEC grant for \$1,500 to remove downed trees at this park): How to accomplish this work?
- Recreational Trails grant for \$24,000 plus 20% match: Andrea Proctor, site historian at Waterloo Village, submitted an application for trail from Waterloo to the concert field.

- 20 trailhead signs: DPW to purchase 5 more posts (which need shaping) plus hardware by next week; DPW will affix signs to posts; Township Manager will rent augur to install with EC help.

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, c. June or July (now awaiting NJ DAG approval, then to Byram for signatures, then to NJDEP Forestry). Then 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.

Musconetcong River: Michelle/Scott. MWA/MRMC re: coffer dams under Route 206 bridge—status? William Penn Foundation grant funding for projects including Lubbers Run?

Report from EC liaison to Open Space Committee: Michelle. Consideration of land swap with Wild West City.

Report from Dave Gary, Council liaison to EC: Status of better process with Sussex County Division of Health and with Planning Board applications. Recycling discussions (article about NJ recycling).

Recycling Center signage: Margaret got quote for signs from SignArts (6 aluminum 11 x 17 signs with vinyl graphics for \$204); hold off until recycling program updated.

Adjourn.