

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES, JUNE 28, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Caryn Segal, Cathy Varian, James Myers, Sheila Hall, Council Liaison Scott Olson, and secretary Margaret McGarrity.

May minutes were approved: motion by Cathy; second by Caryn; unanimous.

Updates:

Tiny trees planted for Arbor Day at C.O. Johnson: Margaret reported these need weeding. The gate is unlocked.

EC membership in the NJ Highlands Coalition: The EC agreed to renew its membership.

Business:

Planning Board:

- CVS: Caryn reported that the Planning Board is reviewing the draft resolution of approval for this project in great detail. Margaret will email to Caryn the EC comments on this application, so that Caryn can review the resolution with those in mind (concerning reforestation at back of lot, vegetative buffers for High Glen neighbors, saving the large split boulder).
- Tony Reis's 'Venture Two LLC' application for former Gupta/Tony & Rosemary's site (Block 27, Lots 383 and 384): The Planning Board has not yet declared this application complete, and so the EC cannot submit comments yet. Cathy reviewed the original plans, and the EC again discussed the apartments (too many apartments on a substandard-sized lot, no windows in livingrooms, no usable outdoor spaces, balconies look directly into houses in West Brookwood).
- Scott reported that Quick Chek has made enquiries about putting a large gas station/convenience store on the second Barone's parcel (Block 34 Lot 15), with a restaurant proposed at the back of the same lot.

Trails:

- Update of Trails Guide with The Land Conservancy of NJ: The EC reviewed TLC-NJ's first draft of the updated Guide. Margaret and Scott have made corrections. The EC will recommend a different photo, more instantly recognizable as being in Byram. Margaret recommended Joyce Bambach's photo of the Waterloo Village pond, from the original Trails Guide; Scott recommended Sandy Urgo's photo of Johnson Lake (Margaret will

obtain); ECers to make other suggestions and choose a photo at the July meeting. The EC agreed to pay Joyce Bambach \$30 each for photos used in the new Guide.

Margaret will send the corrections to TLC-NJ and ask them to prepare a second draft of the Trails Guide for the EC's July meeting.

New trails, upgrades, repairs: Margaret will ask Joe if the EC should seek volunteers to help improve the Johnson Lake dam area; USEPA has offered to repair Mansfield Bike Trail in the area of the Superfund site and NJDOT/NJ Transit are to repair the washed out areas (sometime in the fall or spring); Margaret to ask Joe again about use of remaining Recreational Trails grant funding from the Sussex Branch Trail repairs (just over \$12,000) and whether the NJ Park Service has its own funding to repair the washouts on Sussex Branch near Jefferson Lake (proposed route of 5K for Byram Day).

Grants:

- May 17-18 Smart Growth America workshops: Margaret awaiting the memo from SGA consultants summarizing the strategies for Byram's Village Center; she will email to all.
- ANJEC Sustainable Land Use Planning Grant application for recording/monitoring easements: We did not receive this grant. Margaret will start making a list of easements, based on what we already know or what she can obtain from records at the town hall. This will at least serve some purpose as a reference document for the zoning officer, construction department, Planning Board, EC, and other town offices. Cathy offered to help.

Sustainable Element in Master Plan: Byram's process of conforming with the Highlands Regional Master Plan should address the creation of an ordinance to carry out the recommendations of the new Sustainability Element in the Township's Master Plan.

Musconetcong River: Scott reported that the Musconetcong River Management Council has released its annual report and that Musconetcong Watershed Association Executive Director Beth Styler Barry is seeking a seat on the Lake Hopatcong regional planning council. The MWA is planning another Meet the River day at Byram's Riverside Park. Scott is working with several groups concerning saving historic and cultural resources, like MWA.

Other business:

ANJEC webinar about water resources: James attended and reported that the webinar was about stormwater, flood, and wetlands issues and the role of Environmental Commissions. Basically, although many of these regulations are at the State or federal or County level, local governments and Commissions have local knowledge of conditions and situations that can be of assistance to

higher level enforcers. Various examples were offered about how local officials and residents have helped address such issues.

Mansfield Drive Superfund site: All the toxic soil has been removed and new soil brought in. Five more years of testing are planned, including monitoring 40-70 wells (including drilling some new ones), to determine what is the best long-term remediation. Scott will send to EC members links to websites showing the site.

Byram Day 2012: The EC suggested several ideas for the EC booth:

- Ask the Musconetcong River Management Council and Musconetcong Watershed Association to have or share a booth;
- Promote residential well testing;
- Offer a nature walk with Martin Rapp of The Land Conservancy of NJ (who own the Lubbers Run Preserve) and Beth Styler Barry of MWA;
- Hold a geo-caching event;
- Display a large map of Byram and have residents find their homes (this was very successful at an earlier Byram Day).

Farmer's market: Scott has been asked by residents about having a Byram farmer's market. The EC will try to find someone to take on this project.

Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.