

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES, JANUARY 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Chair John Boyer, Vice-Chair Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Cathy Varian, Lisa Shimamoto, Donna Koenig, Council Liaison Dave Gray, and secretary Margaret McGarrity.

December minutes approved: Motion by Michelle; second by Jim; unanimous.

Resolution for 2015 meeting dates: Motion by Michelle; second by Jim; unanimous.

Election of chair and vice-chair: Motion by Cathy; second by Lisa; unanimous vote to retain same officers as last year (John Boyer as Chair, Michelle Rehse as Vice-chair).

Correspondence and updates:

2015 ANJEC membership dues: Motion by Cathy; second by John; unanimous, to pay \$290 for seven regular members + \$25 for one alternate + \$60 for workshop plan, to total \$375.

NY-NJ Trail Conference advocacy effort against Sunday hunting: Motion by Cathy; second by Lisa; unanimous, to join this effort and oppose Sunday hunting. Margaret will submit the document.

Flood/wetlands permits for Cutoff rail restoration: New noticing based on changes to the location of the proposed station on Roseville Road in Andover Township. Margaret is to send a brief comment reiterating the earlier, very thorough comments submitted by the Commission on these permit applications (numerous water features along the r.o.w. between the Roseville Tunnel and the proposed station location, including wetlands and a C-1 stream).

BEM outcome notice for NJDOT garage UST spills on Route 206: John is reviewing this document. *Table until February meeting.*

Easement monitoring grant project: No response yet from the Planning Board about how the easement process works. Cathy and Donna will help Margaret identify the remaining plats at the town hall on Friday, January 30, at 11 a.m. These are official legal document, and thus verify conservation easements.

2015 ANJEC grants for open space stewardship: The Commission discussed possible grant applications, including:

- Purchasing a bench and trash/recycling cans for the park at Johnson Lake, to be placed on the peninsula nearest the road;
- Funding chain saw certification for an EC member (Jim Reinhold) to help with tree problems at parks/trails;
- Hiring a contractor to clear trees at the Johnson Lake park and at Brookwood Park (very big downed trees near the river).

Jim and Margaret visited the Johnson Lake park on January 9 and discussed the need to install Byram blazes all along the driveway that serves as the trail from the Johnson Lake park to the main Tamarack Park trail, the need to clean up both peninsulas in the park, the need to define the parking area, the need to keep people away from the dam and use landscaping to improve the dam/parking lot areas, the need to mark out a clear trail onto the second peninsula. The old 'no trespassing' signs also need to be removed.

Business:

Planning Board:

Applications:

- Edwards, 19 Meteor Trail, on February 5 Planning Board agenda: Based on several shortcomings in the application, the Commission decided to delay submitting comments and to wait to see what the Planning Board does on February 5. Lisa said Board members have received nothing on this application thus far. Some of the issues about which the Commission believes more information is needed include:
 - ✓ Degree of slopes (parcel is very steep and on the lakeshore);
 - ✓ Disturbance of those slopes, grading, clear-cutting (Margaret to check whether any violations were reported to the Zoning Officer);
 - ✓ NJDEP response to disturbances near or along the C-1 shoreline, including boulders placed in the lake (Margaret will ask if the Township knows whether NJDEP did a site visit or required any remediation);
 - ✓ Whether the existing deck was built without permits and whether any prior restrictions were placed on the parcel (Margaret to check);
 - ✓ Clear-cutting and disturbance of the paper road next to the parcel by Mr. Edwards;
 - ✓ Possible lack of a survey and lack of dimensions on house drawings;
 - ✓ Whether the hand-drawn house drawings will be acceptable to the Planning Board;
 - ✓ Whether Mr. Edwards has continued to work on the site, prior to getting Planning Board review and approval.
 - ✓ Whether Mr. Edwards responded adequately to issues addressed by Planning Board Engineer Cory Stoner in an initial review of the original application (early

November), including several of these points raised by the EC. Mr. Stoner also provided a written review of Mr. Edwards' revised application.

- ✓ Whether the two-bedroom septic system now in place is adequate for the enlarged home proposed in the Planning Board application; the septic application was submitted to Sussex County for review showing the existing summer cottage.
- Paul, 300 Stage Pond Rd., home enlargement with wetlands permit for septic repair (on March 5 Planning Board agenda): Some issues raised by the Mr. Stoner in his review of this application may still be open. The Commission agreed to wait until its February meeting to generate comments, as there are some unusual issues—disturbance of a paper road and near a lake; issues related to the large family parcel on which this is one of several homes.
- Pending: Garrity, Laurel Cove, Cranberry Lake has been given to Mr. Stoner to review. Applications for Lake Mohawk Pool and Cartridge Actuated Devices are not yet complete.
- Highlands Applicability application for proposed house at Block 186 Lot 1 (corner of Route 206 and North Shore Road, Cranberry lake): The Commission submitted comments to NJDEP. Margaret will get a copy of comments submitted by the Cranberry Lake Community Club.

Trails: Trail/park work needed in spring at Brookwood Park and Johnson Lake. Margaret will contact the Lackawanna Historical Cutoff Society after their January meeting regarding their support of a Cutoff trail.

No Net Loss tree planting grant application: Non-competitive; the Township will get \$317,554 for 1,058 trees (\$300 per tree, which can be paid to a contractor to develop a planting plan, purchase and plant and maintain the trees). The Commission will revise its 2008 planting recommendations (when the money was first offered); the Township's Architectural Review Committee may also submit recommendations.

Jim reported that there is no room for more trees at the Lee Hill Emergency Building and no good locations at the Mohawk View soccer fields (under power lines or in areas that would need clearing), and that the dead-hemlocks site at the bottom of Lee Hill is difficult terrain. One of the best options is the retention basins at Ascot Lane.

Margaret suggested various places at the municipal complex, especially around the DPW lunchroom building (she will ask DPW Chief Adolf Steyh), additions to the plantings along Route 206 (including at the foot of the quarry berm, where a fire burned several trees), at C.O. Johnson Park (where the current small NNL grant may not cover proposed plantings).

Margaret will bring a color print-out of the EC's 2008 planting recommendations to the February meeting.

Musconetcong River: Michelle reported there was no meeting of the Musconetcong River Management Council in January. The MRMC and the Musconetcong Watershed Association both sent letters to NJDEP protesting conditions under the Route 206 bridge and calling for proper removal of the coffer dam sections still in the river. Paul Kinney of the National Park Service may also supply a letter (Michelle will contact him).

Dave Gray said NJDOT has told the Township that no further work is planned.

Once Michelle has contacted Mr. Kinney, the Commission will send a brief memo to the Township Council in support of the MRMC and MWA letters, mentioning the safety hazard of leaving the cut coffer dam sections in the river and the issue with the rocks that have been added to the stream to cover up that hazard (changing the morphology of the stream and leading to future problems with scouring, water flow, fish life). Dave will mention this at the next Council meeting.

Margaret will get a copy of the Township Manager's most recent letter to NJDOT, to refer to in the Commission's letter, along with any pertinent correspondence from State representatives (Oroho?) and from the Highlands Council.

Report from EC liaison to Open Space Committee: Michelle will mention the Brookwood Park and Johnson Lake park/trail projects and the ANJEC grant application to the OS Committee.

Report from Council liaison Dave Gray: Dave, Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, and Councilman Scott Olson met with County representatives, including County Administrator John Eskilson, administrator of the County Department of Environmental and Public Health Services Herby Yardley, and SCDEPHS official Emrick Seabold, who handles septic reviews. They presented a slide show of their services (Margaret emailed this to EC members). Byram pays the County approximately \$160,000 for a large range of environmental/health services, including septic reviews.

Byram is asking the County to do more thorough reviews of septic applications, which the County officials said other County municipalities do not want. The County is willing to help Byram revise its procedures and ordinances to accomplish this. Some of the possible changes, to resolve problems and improve communications between the County and Township include:

- Byram's local Board of Health (Dave is Council liaison there also) to be involved at the beginning of the County's review of septic applications;
- Resolve the problem of homeowners submitting a septic application to the County for an existing smaller house while proposing an new addition to the Planning Board or other Township office;
- Create the Township's own septic application forms and time lines for review;
- Establish standards other than the 'bedroom rule' (septic size based on numbers of bedrooms, which is State Code but which the County has said it will not enforce to determine septic size, possibly based on area or volume of living space;

- Establish special septic regulations in sensitive areas (Lake Mohawk may have such standards);
- Appoint an EC liaison to the local Board of Health—Dave will look into this.

Dave attends his first Township Board of Health meeting this month and will start this process, which ultimately must be approved by the Township Council. Changes in bulk standards may also be considered to address some of the issues with house-size at Cranberry Lake.

Tilcon annual quarry licensing application: The Commission approved the draft comments for submission to the Township Council, with the addition of further questions regarding the litigation concerning whether Tilcon deposited contaminated soils at the quarry. The Commission will recommend more testing of the soils and will ask where the soils were deposited at the quarry, whether they are still there, and—if not—where those soils are now. A special counsel has been appointed by the Council to examine this issue and whether it might affect the Township's re-approval of Tilcon's quarry license. Dave will ask whether monitoring wells drilled for the Mansfield Trail Superfund site might be used to test for groundwater contamination near the quarry.

Adjourn: 10 p.m.

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING ANNUAL NOTICE OF MEETINGS DATES
FROM JANUARY 2015 TO JANUARY 2016**

WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of New Jersey has passed into law Chapter 231, P.L. 1975m the Open Public Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the above-mentioned law requires a posting of regularly scheduled meeting dates for the benefit of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Environmental Commission of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, that said Commission shall meet as follows during 2015 and in January 2016:

REGULAR MEETINGS

In 2015:
January 22
February 26
March 26
April 23
May 28
June 25
July 23
August 27
September 24
October 22
November 23 Monday*
December 21 Monday*
In 2016:
January 28

(Denotes a different day than the usual meeting day)*

All of the above meetings shall begin at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Action may be taken. All meetings shall be held in the Municipal Building, 10 Mansfield Drive, Byram Township, NJ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Herald and be posted on the bulletin board in the Byram Township Municipal Building.

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

	Boyer	Rehse	Reinhold	Myers	Shimamoto	Varian	Koenig	Parish (Alt.)
Motion		✓						
2nd		✓	✓					
Yes	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
No								
Abstain								
Absent				✓				✓

ATTEST:

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Byram Township Environmental Commission at a meeting held on January 22, 2015


 Margaret McGarrity, Secretary