

# BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES, MARCH 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Lisa Shimamoto (acting as chair), James Myers, Cathy Varian, Donna Koenig, and secretary Margaret McGarrity. Also present were John Garrity, a Cranberry Lake resident, and Township Councilman Scott Olson.

**February minutes approved:** Motion by Lisa; second by James; unanimous (Cathy and Donna abstained, not being present at that meeting).

## **Correspondence and updates:**

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

Sustainable Jersey: Offering to help us obtain certification. Margaret will send this information to Cathy, in case she wants to work on this. We were able to obtain the Conservation Easement Grant as a 'registered' but not 'certified' town.

45<sup>th</sup> Earth Day on April 22: Since Arbor Day is two days later, the EC agreed to concentrate on Arbor Day celebrations (distributing 100 free trees to residents and adding to the plantings in the Lubbers Run buffer at the back of Neil Gylling Park).

Citizens Guide to Wetlands and NJ Wetland Rules: Margaret will email to all EC members and put copies on counter at town hall.

## **Business:**

Soil ordinance: Table until April (John, Katie, Dave are reviewing the draft).

## **Planning Board:**

- Doug Paul application approved: The EC asked for a vegetative buffer along the lake; the Pauls are trying to establish landscaping there, instead of grass. Problems with beavers—Margaret will provide them with information about NJDEP beaver trapping program.
- John Garrity application: Mr. Garrity discussed his application with the EC in detail. The EC will submit comments commending Mr. Garrity for his attention to planning/environmental issues (and going beyond requirements to install rain gardens and other recharge structures for roof run-off) and making two suggestions (decking material

should be as pervious as possible and main door could be shifted to the end of the house nearest the garage, with these suggestions aimed at reducing impervious cover or eliminating the need for one of the variances).

- Edwards application: Returning to the Planning Board on April 2; NJDEP letter requires that Mr. Edwards remove all fill from the lake or within 25 feet of the water, dispose of this material off-site (or on-site if NJDEP permit will OK), stabilize all soils with seed/straw. The EC's Planning Board liaison (Lisa) will ask the Planning Board to impose a condition on any approvals that no construction permits be issued until Mr. Edwards fulfills all NJDEP requirements. The Commission will also wait to see if the Board requires Mr. Edwards to revegetate the paper road/r.o.w. beside his parcel.
- Lanci approval: all walls are now to be removed but because the foundation stays in place, this is still not considered a new house and is to be built according to Planning Board approvals for an addition. The EC discussed what seem to be various interpretations of "new"—some houses in Byram and examples from other towns. Lisa will try to find clarification.
- Mohawk Pool and Spa: The EC will reserve most of its comments because of discrepancies between the written application and the drawings, as well as with the letter from the applicant's engineer. The EC agreed to submit comments about the parking area on the old tennis courts (re-striped for parking without any approvals), regarding lack of landscaping and stormwater/erosion issues from the lot and the entry ramp; about the parking spaces on the grass between the road and the pool area (compaction and stormwater runoff), plus very general comments on the rest of the property.
- Steep slope ordinance: The EC voted to ask that this ordinance be revised, so that these restrictions on disturbing sensitive features pertain in all circumstances, not just when an approval or permit is sought. Motion by Cathy; second by Donna; unanimous. Margaret will draft a memo.

#### Trails:

- Spring trail work and National Trails Day (June 1): Margaret will ask the Township engineer and Township manager about holding a June 1 work day on the Jefferson-Glen Bike Trail, in order to make sure that volunteers can handle the problems there; the Salt Shakers Running Club wants to help. Jim will attend the March 28 trail maintenance course given by NY-NJ Trail Conference at Salt (and a May 6 chain saw certification class in Manalapan).
- 2015 ANJEC grants for open space stewardship: The Commission will submit the grant proposal for \$1,500 to hire a tree removal contractor to clear the large downed trees near the river in Brookwood Park. EC, Salt Shaker, and other local volunteers would supply in-kind hours as part of the grant match.

#### Forestry:

- No Net Loss tree planting grant (\$317,554 for 1,058 trees): Margaret will compile the planting suggestions from the EC and the Architectural Review Committee; Scott suggested asking Andrea Proctor about possible sites at Waterloo Village.
- Community Forestry Plan update (2015-2019 plan): The EC voted to accept this plan (with the corrected spelling of James Myers' name on the cover) and submit to NJDEP Community Forestry for approval. Motion by Lisa; second by Cathy; unanimous.
- NJ Tree Recovery Campaign 2015: James prepared an application. We will get 100 trees (mostly 4 – 6 feet high), and James and Donna will distribute them on April 18, the Saturday before Arbor Day (which is April 24) at the Township recycling center. Margaret will put an Arbor Day Proclamation on the Township website and at the town hall, and Scott will inform the NJ Herald and Township Journal.

Musconetcong River: Michelle Rehse asked Margaret to report that Musconetcong Watershed Association Executive Director Beth Styler-Barry will continue to press for a resolution to the coffer-dam remnants left under the Route 206 bridge. The EC will recommend that the Council follow up on the MWA's efforts.

Report from EC liaison to Open Space Committee: Michelle was absent but the EC discussed an informal offer from the owners of Wild West City to swap land parcels with the Township (to trade a section of the municipal parcel, where WWC has parked trucks for years, for the parcel owned by WWC between the school fields and Lubbers Run).

Report from Council liaison Dave Gray: Dave absent.

Township Recycling Center: The Township manager has given the EC approval to propose better signage at the dumpsters, to keep plastic bags and other trash out. Margaret is asking for materials from ReCommunity, which buys the Township's recyclables.

**Adjourn:** 11 p.m.