

# BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## MINUTES, JUNE 11, 2015

(a re-scheduled meeting to replace the regular May and June meetings)

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

The Commission voted to cancel the regular June 25 meeting: motion by Jim; second by Lisa; unanimous. Margaret will get posted on Township website.

**April 23 minutes tabled:** Vote in July.

### **Correspondence and updates:**

Article: Plant This, Not That: Margaret will email to all.

Neil Gylling Park buffer along Lubbers Run: Margaret will get information, prices about adding some shrubs to fill in the buffer. Motion by Michelle; second by John; unanimous.

Community Forestry Management Plan: State will OK; need their signatures and then Council's formal adoption. CSIP \$20,000 tree cutting grant—NJDEP has accepted the close-out documentation; grant funds coming to town soon.

### **Business:**

Conservation Easement grant: Eileen Swan of NJ Conservation Foundation to make presentation to Township Council and Planning Board representatives on July 7. The brochure will be mailed after her presentation and after the Township has settled on a complete easement process.

Soil ordinance: Margaret will re-send draft to John and Katie and cc Dave and they will discuss.

### **Planning Board:**

- Jefferson Lake Day Camp: approved at the June 4 Planning Board. EC sent brief description of what Donna and Lisa saw during the site visit, saying that the EC has no comment on the application.
- Lake Mohawk Pool & Spa: The EC sent comments; Lisa advised that no further comments are needed. Ongoing discussions at the Planning Board: intention to build two houses (not on this application) makes the site very tight; parking a big issue,

including environmental issues for being right on the water and sediment runoff into lake; entrance to tennis court parking lot will be asphalted (as EC recommended); no additional landscaping needed at the lot; 80% shoreline buffer will be required (as EC recommended). They might submit revised plans for additional meetings---Margaret will check with the PB secretary; if EC needs to make more comments, could hold a special meeting.

- Cartridge Actuated Devices: on July 16 Planning Board agenda; Cathy will go over the application and then ECers will do site visit.
- Consolidated School apartments: PB Secretary Cheryl White will provide full application once it is deemed complete.
- Other issues:
  - ✓ Definition of a “new” house: Lisa will bring up as ‘other business’ at the PB meeting; suggest that the definition make it clear that once all first-floor walls are down, *regardless of the reason*, the structure becomes a new house. (Planning Board Chairman George Shivas has required language to be inserted in Planning Board resolutions stating that one first-floor wall—not one foundation wall—must remain standing in order for a project not to be defined as a new house.)
  - ✓ Clarification that withholding a Certificate of Occupancy is not an effective tool for enforcing conditions in Planning Board resolutions (many applicants drag their feet on getting a CO, because it prevents the new work from being added to the assessment): The EC wants to understand why applicants cannot be forced to close permits and get a CO within a specific time period. Margaret will get info.
  - ✓ EC memo seeking revision of steep slope/tract disturbance ordinance to make restrictions on disturbing sensitive features pertain in all circumstances, not just when an approval or permit is sought: Margaret will check on status with new Zoning Officer Tom Dixon.

#### Trails:

- Spring trail work and National Trails Day (Sat., June 6): Jim and Katie worked at Tamarack Park at Johnson Lake on June 6 and accomplished a lot; trail out onto large peninsula needs more heavy clearing; need a carry-in/carry-out post. Salt Shakers Running Club worked at three sites; took 5 garbage bags of litter off Sussex Branch Trail (between North Shore and Whitehall Hill Roads). Margaret will ask if they can help with more work days at Tamarack Park and Brookwood Park. Jim awaiting chainsaw certification and then will work at removing big tree refuse at Brookwood (seek access via driveways near this site and possibly use small DPW truck or police quad to haul out logs, or stack on site); Margaret will then get DPW to finish the job. (We did not get the 2015 ANJEC \$1,500 grant to hire a tree removal contractor to clear these trees.) First section of the Brookwood trail very grown over.

- Recreational Trails grant application: Andrea Proctor (Waterloo Village site historian and member of the Architectural Review Committee) submitted \$25,000 application for trail between Waterloo and the concert field. Margaret will get info on a second batch of Recreational Trails grant money.
- 20 trailhead signs: Still need 5 more posts and hardware; Margaret to remind DPW superintendent.

Musconetcong River: The Musconetcong River Management Council meeting is June 16, 7 p.m.; Cathy and/or Donna to go. Councilman Scott Olson is looking into possible grant funding for projects along Lubbers Run from the William Penn Foundation.

Report from EC liaison to Open Space Committee: Nothing new about the Wild West City proposal to swap land with the Township. The update of the Forest Stewardship Plan has been delayed. The bids for the construction of the Jones Lane fields at Tamarack Park were received; construction to begin this summer. The OS Committee approved of the Conservation Easement brochure.

Report from Council liaison to EC and to Board of Health Dave Gray:

- ✓ Recycling: The BoH and EC both very concerned about improving recycling, which is a major issue with residents. The Township Manager is studying costs of adding a second curb-side recycling day and the effects on the garbage contract. The EC agreed to send a memo in support of recycling improvements to the BoH and Council.
- ✓ Septic procedures: BoH working at improving how the Township works with the Sussex County health department, including having all septic applications come through the BoH (unsure exactly how this would work) and the possibility of 'special zones' such as in Vernon's and Sparta's ordinances, which stipulate certain specifications for septics in lake neighborhoods. Other issues include redefining "alterations" versus "new" septics, variances for septics to be reviewed by BoH. The BoH's recommendations will be vetted by other Township committees, including the EC. The Township Manager suggested a sub-committee of various committee representatives be appointed to handle all this; Dave believes the BoH is handling it well.

Township Recycling Center: The EC voted again to pursue better recycling signage at the Center (quote from SignArts for \$204 for six 11x14 aluminum signs with vinyl graphics), even though the Township Council may make changes there as part of the feasibility study of the entire municipal complex. EC can use these at Byram Day. Donna will get price for full spread recycling message in the Township Journal. Motion for both expenditures: motion by Cathy; second by Katie; unanimous.

Byram Day: This year, emphasis is on history and nature. Various ideas for the EC booth:

- ✓ Presentation about salamanders again (and bats?);
- ✓ Presentation about amphibians and snakes (Donna to get details);
- ✓ Paint walking sticks (Katie proposed);
- ✓ Hang recycling signs;
- ✓ Presentation from Pequest Fish Hatchery and/or teaching kids to fish (Margaret to get details);
- ✓ Gift certificate again from Sunnyside Nursery;
- ✓ Where Is This quiz, using photographs of Waterloo, with players to find the site, get a stamp, maybe answer a short history quiz (Donna to get details and talk to Andrea Proctor at Waterloo);
- ✓ Quiz on what's recyclable (Katie's idea).

Mansfield Bike Trail dumpsite Superfund site: Information provided at the Citizens Action Group meeting:

- ✓ Electric probes are being used to determine the cause of vapor intrusion at some houses—from pockets of groundwater or through cracks in bedrock;
- ✓ Spots of pollution in or near Lubbers Run, flowing out of the ground into the river, where EPA will retest, in addition to retesting near Cowboy Creek;
- ✓ Mr. Moran brought 1980s documents from the neighborhood water company showing TCE in the same spots.

**Adjourn:** 10 p.m.