

Environmental Commission  
January 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: James Myers, Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Katie Baron, Eric Duch, Helene Jaros, Casey McGuffy, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board liaison), Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary).

Open Public Meeting Statement – Adequate notice of this meeting has been made with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6.

Review of December 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes – A motion to make once change (page 3, third bullet under Other, replace “Native” with “Nader”) and accept the revised meeting minutes was made by James, seconded by Helene.

Membership:

- Reappointments – Both Eric and Helene agreed to continue their positions
- Resignation – Casey McGuffy will be moving out of Byram in February and submitted her resignation
- New Member – Harvey Roseff is the new Council rep, replacing Scott Olson. Harvey presented his background and was welcomed into the committee.

Committee/Council Reports:

- Recreation – no report
- Open Space – the next meeting will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>
- MRMC – Michelle confirmed the EC alternates continue to be James Myers and the back-up alternate continues to be Jim Reinhold. She is unable to attend the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and Jim will attend. Much of the December meeting was spent discussing reorganization; however, the following topics were also discussed:
  - Lake Hopatcong draw down – a new plan will be in place by 2020.
  - There is a National Waterway grant pending which involves water based trips (ex. kayaks) as well as maps.
  - New Zealand Mud Snails continue to spread and MRMC is getting more watchers to monitor this invasive species.
  - They are working with Trout Unlimited to educate fishermen to reduce spreading of New Zealand Mud Snails.
- Council – Harvey reported the request for applications for Highlands Grant was recently received. EC support may be needed to help Open Space with this grant. He advised that Council tabled the request for the Township Forester until their second meeting in February.

### New Business:

- Vegetative Management Response Act Discussion - members reviewed the proposed NJ bill and would like to have more time to review it. This will be tabled until next month.
- Plan 2019 Goals/Topics of Interest
  - Lisa suggested EC consider working with other committees (ex. Board of Health, Open Space, etc.) to develop a Township calendar. Members like this idea and brainstormed ideas, including a photo contest with printing the photos in the calendar. Additional research is needed, but members questioned if this could possibly replace some Township mailings such as the recycling postcard and the annual Stormwater letter mailing.
  - EC will coordinate the Arbor Day event, provide support for the Highlands Grant as well as other Township initiatives as needed.
- NJDEP Amendments to Stormwater Management Rule (NJAC 7.8) – EC members reviewed the article previously distributed and will continue to be aware of potential stormwater management issues. Several members have participated in stormwater related training. Katie and Helene expressed interest in an ANJEC sponsored Stormwater Management training and will be registering for it.

### Ongoing Business:

- Annual Township Heads of Committee Meeting Update – Michelle represented EC in this meeting. She reported that Open Space will be in charge of the trails but we may support their initiatives. In February/March, Greener by Design will visit each committee to discuss our long-term goals. She also reported that Recreation may reshape Byram Day and discussed various ideas.
- NJ Tree Recovery Campaign Seedlings – due to the overwhelming response, NJ reduced the number of free tree seedlings that will be distributed. Our order of 200 has been reduced to 175 seedlings. If we wanted to purchase additional seedlings, they are available in lots of 50 for \$18-\$25 depending on the type of species. EC members do not want to purchase additional seedlings. Secretary received additional information from the state for advertising and materials to distribute at the event. Rather than printing copies for distribution, one color copy will be printed and posted at the event, so residents can use their phones to take a picture of it. She will also post the materials on EC website. It was noted that NJ requires a sign-in sheet for each resident who obtains a seedling.
- Arbor Day Event – will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at CO Johnson Field from 9am-1pm. Lenape Valley's Go Green Club expressed interest in participating in this event.

### Planning Board Application:

- Dave Hergert (Elite Automotive) – 254 Route 206 – the applicant proposes construction of a parking lot with 5 stalls in the front yard, relocation of the main building entrance and proposed employee stacked parking. It was reported that the applicant will be revising their application. EC tabled further discussion until next month's meeting.
- Samuel & Rebecca Pruitt – 10 Rosemarie Lane – the applicants wish to rebuild their home which was destroyed by fire. This is lakefront property and requires several variances including maximum height allowance. They wish to enlarge the footprint of the previous dwelling by expanding the

dwelling 16' towards the roadway. In addition, they wish to move an existing shed. EC reviewed the application and had the following comments:

- As the property is lakefront, please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 240) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10' wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings.
- Please consider the addition of a rain barrel to capture stormwater runoff from the gutters.

#### Training:

- Amphibian Crossing Training was held in early January. Helene attended and thought the training was informative. She plans to attend the Amphibian Crossing event in the spring. She described the event and the roles that volunteers have in the potential rescue of amphibians that cross Waterloo Road to get to the vernal pond. She reported that Waterloo Road has the highest number of amphibians that cross the road in the entire state! The Amphibian Crossing Event started back in 2002.
- ANJEC sponsored training "Making Sense of the Newest Stormwater Rules" will be held on Thursday February 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm at Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township. Katie and Helene will be registered to attend.

#### Expenditures and Budget:

The temporary EC budget is \$700, with the full budget to be released in April.

#### Other:

- Municipal Building Subcommittee – Jim reported that a meeting was held in January and an architect was hired to evaluate three potential options. A report with estimates on the three options will be provided to the subcommittee on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- SCMUA Fee-Free Days for 2019 – flyer for the fee free days were made available to EC members, have been posted at Town Hall and are linked on the Township website.
- Membership –
  - An invoice in the amount of \$95 for NJ Shade Tree Foundation membership was received and discussed by members. The initial response was to not renew as EC did not partake in any of their events or training last year. However, Secretary will research this further as this may be a requirement for Tree City USA certification. Tree City USA certification could be a requirement for some grants and we don't want to limit grant eligibility.
  - Members confirmed they do not wish to join NY/NJ Trail Conference (membership is \$50) but Eric will bring it up to the Open Space Committee to see if there is interest.

Next meeting is February 28, 2019.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30pm was made by Jim, seconded by Katie.