

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES, MAY 28, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Present were Chair Sheila Hall, Lisa Shimamoto, Daven Baez, Sue Wise, Rowena McNulty, Michele Rehse, Dawn Boyer, Council Liaison Scott Olson, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity.

April minutes: motion by Sue; second by Daven; unanimous.

Reappointments: for members whose terms are up, please email Township Clerk Doris Flynn if you want to be reappointed. The EC chair is a mayoral appointment but the EC makes a recommendation. To discuss at the June meeting.

Correspondence:

Kilowatt Ours: Margaret will re-check our purchase of a copy of this film, as the CD has not arrived yet. Our voucher was mailed on April 30--\$95 for one CD and screening rights for institutions or large groups (a second copy would be \$25); www.kilowatt.ours; screening@kilowattours.org.

Township website EC section: Margaret is webmaster but Sue will help.

Route 206: \$15.8 million in funding, each year for three years, to total \$47.4 million for c. one mile.

Green issues: Best Practices in Green Education and Tapping Into Students' Brain Power (how to make schools more Green)—copies to Rowena, Dawn, Michelle. Dawn's Environmental Club has gotten Byram named a 'Wild School Site'—they will work on rain gardens and on removing invasives from the Lake School courtyard (taking out butterfly bushes).

Business:

ANJEC tri-town trail grant application to ANJEC: ANJEC will give us \$3,744 for help from NYNJTC and for maps. Cliff Lundin of Hopatcong will call a tri-town meeting to get started. Byram and Hopatcong will each get a grant contract, as they are contributing cash match.

No Net Loss trees and Community Forestry Plan: Margaret and Sheila met with Tom Mayer of Sussex County and Branchville Shade Tree Commissions. Very knowledgeable about where to buy trees (for our No Net Loss plantings), how to plant and maintain, contractors who would be capable of handling the No Net Loss project if we decide not to do a township/volunteers approach. Tom, Jeff Pichet of Bartlett, and others from Sussex County Shade Tree Commission to attend the EC's June meeting.

Adolf and Joe's concerns about costs of carrying out the Community Forestry Plan: could these costs be paid out of the Township Open Space Trust Fund?

EC should collaborate with the Open Space Committee and Architectural Review Committee on CFP and No Net Loss.

EC members to read draft Community Forestry Plan for discussion at June meeting. Think about what efforts might be expected of the EC. Make sure this plan is tailored to Byram's needs and does not contain unnecessary requirements.

New BPU vegetation clearing rules: discuss and comment next time.

Trails/streams: 1. Grant for trails on Beckmann-Arnell-Owners Maintenance—Margaret to keep ECers informed about when they might help. Although Brenda Holzinger no longer works for NYNJ Trail Conference, she will continue to lead this project.

2. Repairing next section of Sussex Branch Trail—Margaret drafted a letter for partnership project with Andover Borough, Andover Township, Sussex County Freeholders. Add: clarify explanation of Newton break in trail; add suggestion that NJDOT be asked to fund stormwater systems on Route 206.

3. June 27 cleanup of Sussex Branch Trail between North Shore Road and Whitehall Hill Road; Margaret to call SLAP for help and arrange for Adolf to pick up the refuse we collect. Meet at Cranberry Lake Park and Ride—walk north to North Shore Road.

4. Runoff from Bell-McConnell subdivision into Lubbers Run. Need to make the oversight/enforcement process of the Planning Board work better. Margaret to check with Chris again and ask him to get County Soil Conservation to the site (Cliff Lundin on their board). Is there a subdivision escrow to get the work done?

Joint EC/Recreation projects: 1. Sheila to get detention planting grant info from Lois DeVries at Andover Township EC. 2. Adam will prepare a 20-minute 'Communiversity' class on our trail system for Byram Day, perhaps including geo-caching at the trail heads and including Sussex Branch and bike trails.

Update of trail brochure: Next time Margaret to bring copies of brochure, Adam to bring GPS data on trails, Margaret to bring list of corrections.

Lake management issues: Sue will ask Chris Hellwig if the EC can approach Highlands Council to ask them to facilitate grant funding for lake management plans for Forest and Lackawanna (following up on Sheila's letter to Chris asking same).

Non-phosphorus ordinance: Margaret will send out email to let EC members know when this is back on the Board of Health agenda.

PSE&G powerline: The NJ BPU approved 16 or 17 groups as interveners, including Byram Township, and a shared escrow of \$300,000 to be shared by the intervening municipalities. BPU hearings: June 11 and June 18 at 7 p.m. at Sussex County Community College Theater; June 30 at Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Protest at Newton Park May 29, 5 – 7 p.m. Comments on revised plan due June 12—still 14 points on

which plan is not compatible with Highlands Plan, Scott notes; but PSE&G will pay \$18.6 million to offset environmental harm.

Planning Board applications: Margaret will obtain copy of Dembowski variance application, in which applicant hired firm to investigate and certify nature and condition of septic (no other engineering plans on file) (NOTE: the firm they used was Septek, 973-208-5350, and the cost was about \$375 to open tank, use small camera to check on leach area). She will send a memo with each application detailing what information is available on the septic system.

Next Tri-county Regional Forum: 1. Sunday, June 14, Trail Maintainers Workshop, Adam all day, Sue and Dawn for the a.m. Worked on Arnell, with more work to do there. 2. Summer to be scheduled with Foodshed Alliance and perhaps Slow Food and Health Shoppe—Margaret seeking dates.

Quarry: Margaret still checking on wetlands buffer requirements. On April 30, Margaret emailed Municipal Clerk Doris Flynn to ask that next year the quarry submit an annual aerial at 1:200 scale, same as the baseline aerial.

Windmill ordinance: Not yet on Planning Board agenda.

Sparta hydroelectric project proposal: EC sent comments. Dan Rafferty, Joe Sabatini, and Scott meet with Riverbank CEO and engineer on May 18—possibly looking at two alternate transmission routes.

Floodplain and wetlands applications: Margaret to review wetlands application for the Cutoff.

Highlands ERI: Sue offered to help Margaret; will ask Chris Hellwig if Sue can do this at home. Due end June.

Bell-McConnell project at Lake Lackawanna: Contact Sussex County Soil Conservation and possibly NJDEP, since runoff/erosion is going into river (it's a C-1 stream here). Call Cliff Lundin, who is on SCSC board? Margaret to ask Chris if there is an escrow still available to get the situation resolved.

Additional Planning Board issue: Quick Chek possible at Barone's (12 gas pumps and 4850 sf store)? Barone seeking sewer gallonage for this or pharmacy?

TCE in East Brookwood: NJDEP has drilled two monitoring wells. Finding very high levels in surface water seeping out of rocks. Neighbors pushing to identify source.

Adjourn: 9:50 p.m.