

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES, APRIL 23, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Chair Sheila Hall, Lisa Shimamoto, Daven Baez, Sue Wise, Rowena McNulty, Michele Rehse, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity.

March minutes: motion by Michele; second by Sue; unanimous.

Correspondence:

Township newsletter: Summer issue has article about Trout Unlimited's riparian buffer offer. Next issue: Ideas? (22 lines, 200 words). (*NOTE: How about lawn care, including leaving clippings, no-ph fertilizers, etc.?*)

Musconetcong Watershed Assn. Riverside Park cleanup: April 18, 1.5 hours, 8 volunteers, four large bags of garbage, mostly from the playground area, fast food containers.

Kilowatt Ours: The EC agreed that Margaret should go ahead with the \$95 purchase of one CD plus screening rights.

Creosoted telephone poles removed from play areas at Riverside Park: Margaret conveyed a mother's complaint to Adolf Steyh, who got rid of the poles.

Musconetcong River Management Council: Michele attended the April 21 meeting in MWA's new Green building in Asbury. Michele reported that the River Management Plan revisions are complete and pertinent sections will be sent to towns in the watershed for comment.

The Council will next form various committees, on a wide range of issues, and Michele can make a choice. Rowena's husband will also call the Musconetcong Watershed Association to ask how he might volunteer. Byram could have two representatives, if both want to do it.

The Council discussed a recent diesel spill into the Musconetcong from a grease trap. Do we have any—probably at gas stations—and how are they regulated? (*NOTE: Chris says 'hydrocyclonic' or 'Stormceptor' separators help keep gas/diesel out of stormwater, but are not required. Byram does not have them; they are one BMP suggested for better stormwater management; in towns that have them, they are usually licensed and require regular cleaning, being regulated through programs similar to our Septic Management Program.*)

MWA is sponsoring a 4-mile Run for the River on May 2 in Asbury and other events such as kayak trips—go to the website.

Health Shoppe "Farm to Families": Order local organic food, 973-538-9131 or thehealthshoppes.com/Farm_to_Family.html. Margaret will look into inviting the Health

Shoppe and Slow Food to the workshop with Foodshed Alliance we are planning in the summer at SALT and will get some possible dates.

Complaint from resident about filling near wetlands at back of Adam Todd parking lot: Zoning Officer John Gutwerk and Joe Sabatini checked and will require that they come to Planning Board for a site plan waiver and for a site plan review when they start new landscaping on the other side of the building. All the work is on their property on parking lot areas; State Park Police visited the site and took no action. Margaret will suggest that John recommend porous pavement to help with recharge, prevent ponding and runoff into adjacent wetlands.

Business:

ANJEC tri-town trail grant application to ANJEC: Grants awarded by end May. Then the three towns can decide how to proceed, with or without grant funding.

No Net Loss trees and Community Forestry Plan: Daven (EC liaison on the Open Space Committee) reported that the OS Committee at its April 13 meeting questioned whether Byram needs a CFP, since it has few formal tree-lined streets. OS decided that this plan is not within their scope of work.

Daven suggested that the EC might take charge of it. Joe Sabatini, Adolf Steyh, and Margaret are still to meet to discuss what kinds of obligations a CFP imposes on Byram versus the benefits.

Joe suggested forming a Shade Tree Commission. Margaret asked Janice Hunts in Stanhope about why they have both an EC and a Shade Tree Commission—basically, they didn't want the STC work to overshadow other EC projects and they wanted volunteers committed to continuing education and to implementing their CFP, including seeking grants. Also both committees can advocate for tree issues before the Township Council.

The EC will try to get the plan completed and Sheila will invite someone from the Community Forestry office at NJDEP to speak to the EC, Joe, and Adolf. Margaret will meet with Joe and Adolf beforehand and also check on the deadlines in the Community Forestry grant that will pay for the CFP and tell Sheila.

Green Building element in Master Plan: The EC and Architectural Review Committee will redouble efforts to get Green requirements in the Master Plan and/or Village Center ordinance as soon as possible. The ARC chairman will speak to the Planning Board chairman about getting this on a Planning Board agenda.

Trails/streams: Margaret cannot arrange a hike with naturalist Martin Rapp of the NJ Natural Lands Trust parcels along Lubbers Run; she will try getting another naturalist (maybe from Kittatinny Valley State Park).

We need to set a hike schedule for the spring/summer.

Grant work to establish trails on the Beckmann/Kostrey, Arnell, and Owners Maintenance open space parcels is proceeding. Working on Beckmann first, where there

are lots of trees down, which need clearing before trail construction begins. Boy Scouts and Eagle Scout Alex Livesey are helping. Margaret will alert EC about work days.

Grant work to repair the section of Sussex Branch Trail between North Shore Road and Whitehall Hill Road will be completed by August. The EC will hold a cleanup there on Saturday, June 27, 9-noon; Margaret will ask Adolf to help take away garbage and pick up the heavier stuff.

Repairing the next section of Sussex Branch between the two outlets of Whitehall Hill Road—very big problems which Adolf and Park Superintendent Rocky Gott estimate at \$1.5 million. Grant funding is inadequate. The EC will initiate a process to get several towns along the trail to petition our State representatives to get the funding from dedicated park funding sources; Margaret will begin this.

Joint EC/Recreation projects: 1. Sheila to get detention planting grant info from Lois DeVries at Andover Township EC. 2. Janet Meisner and Margaret organizes an April 22 work day at C.O. Johnson Park with volunteers from Partners for Parks (from The Land Conservancy of NJ)—cleared a cove of trees for six picnic tables, painted dugouts, cleaned inside of clubhouse.

Lake management issues: Margaret will draft a letter for Sheila to sign, specifically asking Chris Hellwig if the EC can approach Highlands Council to ask them to facilitate grant funding for lake management plans for Forest and Lackawanna.

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.

Planning Board applications: Margaret will send memo with each application detailing what information is available on the septic system. Use the Debowski example, handled by Lisa's office, where the homeowner made sure there was a detailed engineering plan or an engineer-certified as-built drawing.

Next Tri-county Regional Forum: 1. NY-NJ Trail Conference trail maintainers workshop to be held a Sunday in June—a.m. at SALT; out on trails; recap and supper at SALT about 4 p.m. Margaret will ask Brenda Holzinger why it has to take all day, as that may deter some volunteers. (*NOTE: will probably be Sunday, June 14.*) 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. Lisa resized the annual aerial of the quarry works to match the baseline aerial photo—very little change; only slight movement toward the wetlands. Margaret will ask that next year's annual aerial be at 1:200 scale, like the baseline aerial.

Windmill ordinance: Not yet on Planning Board agenda for discussion. Rowena attended a Green Fair in Canada and saw small windmills like horizontal pinwheels.

Sparta hydroelectric project proposal: EC has until June to comment; Margaret has read and suggested comments and Sue will review also. The EC will draft comments at its May meeting.

Floodplain and wetlands applications: From NJDOT for Route 206--EC sent comments. Margaret will also review wetlands application for the Cutoff.

Adjourn: 10:00 p.m.