

**BYRAM TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES, MAY 27, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Co-chairs Sue Wise and Dawn Boyer, Jen Kreusch, Caryn Segal, Sheila Hall, Dave Gray, Daven Baez, Council Liaison Scott Olson, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity.

**April minutes:** Motion by Caryn; second by Dawn; unanimous.

**Correspondence:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetlands Reserve Program: Really for agricultural lands, not Byram.

Smart Growth Resource: Three DVD's on Community Trees, A Living Investment, which Sue will download.

Tree inventories: Boonton Township tree survey—photographed, measured, and put on website; for use in schools. Margaret will call Diane Nelson for information. Also, Urban Tree Project, in which people enter their own trees for an inventory—Sue will get information.

Rutgers information on water chestnut invasive: Margaret will get a good pictorial flyer (from Rutgers website or from Earl Riley at Lake Musconetcong management group).

Rain barrel workshops: Jen will supply information, possibly for Byram Day.

NJDEP hazardous trees article: Margaret will put on Township website and in newsletter.

**Business:**

Cutoff site walk with NJDEP: Margaret will email all confirming date/time (Tuesday, June 22, at 10 a.m., meeting at town hall).

No Net Loss trees and Community Forestry Plan: The EC briefly discussed its upcoming presentation of the NNL grant and the CFP at the June 7 Council meeting. Todd Wyckoff of NJDEP Forestry will be there to assist the EC to help explain the programs and benefits. The EC has revised the CFP to better tailor it to Byram's needs; Forester Ron Farr and Todd Wyckoff have both reviewed the revisions and say the CFP still fulfills the State program requirements.

### Trails/streams:

- Sussex Branch Trail 5-town advocacy effort to repair ‘Whitehall Washout.’ On-site meeting May 10 with NJDOT, NJDEP, County and Byram officials. Scott will ask Mayor Oscovitch what Byram is to do next.
- Recreational Trails grant application for Brookwood/Vetter park: Margaret will ask Brenda Holzinger (consultant on the project from NYNJ Trail Conference) to call Scott about the issues raised in the letter to NJDEP from the East Brookwood water company. He will discuss with Joe. Meanwhile, Dave Gray will research how Clean Water Act would affect what can be done near the wellhead within the small section of the previously-existing park.
- Musconetcong Management Council. Next meeting is June; Michelle will try to get a flyer on the water chestnut.
- Historical trail loop idea—from old memo Margaret found. She will email around—Waterloo Village, Highlands Trail, Sussex Branch, Cutoff, Morris Canal Greenway or other routes back to Waterloo.

### Joint Recreation and EC projects:

- Planting detention basins: Sheila reported that the basins in Byram, which are all dry except those at Forest South, are difficult to plant (unlike the wet basins the Andover EC got a grant to plant). Could try to revegetate with Roundup and replant with better species, but still unlikely to survive or improve the landscape. Possibly try to grow pollinators or use No Net Loss funding for trees (but not on berms)? The EC agreed to drop this project unless a usable grant program comes along.

Clean Communities funding for anti-litter campaign: OK from Cindy Church and Joe Sabatini. How to design the post-card/poster: ECers to bring photos/ideas next meeting.

Put up posters at fast-food restaurants or signs along highways. Litter from bears in garbage cans. (*NOTE: Byram’s garbage hauler calls for cans to be out by 6 a.m. but typically does not pick up anywhere in Byram before 8 a.m.*)

Trails Brochure update: EC will provide draft update by mid-July for The Land Conservancy of NJ, who are doing a streamlined update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

### Open Space issues:

- May 21 tour of open space parcels with Open Space Committee. Various issues of importance to the EC were discussed, including uses of the local open space trust fund for preservation and/or development/maintenance of active recreation facilities, parking/access for trails on Beckmann parcel, working with NJ Conservation Foundation on trails on Hudson Farm Greenway (areas around Johnson Lake and out toward Rt.

206). Caryn, Daven, and Scott will keep EC updated, especially on issue of uses of local OS trust fund.

PSE&G powerline update: Byram accepted \$285,000 from PSE&G to not oppose the line (which would have cost the Township about \$20,000 in legal fees etc.) but did not give up its right to comment on PSE&G permits applications. The money goes for mitigation of the impacts of construction and fire-emergency-police special training. Also there is a \$10,000 escrow fund for Byram's experts to review site plans and this fund renews to \$10,000 once it gets spent down to \$1,000. Also PSE&G must still pay for police costs related to the project, other costs, and pre-construction meeting with adjoining landowners.

The federal Park Service is still doing its two-year environmental review; various environmental organizations have appealed the NJBPU ruling that approved the powerline project.

Mitigation areas for PSE&G project: Musconetcong Watershed Association partnering with Byram to find locations, such as stormwater runoff from streets in East Brookwoods that dead-end at Lubbers Run or homes below Lackawanna dam with lawns to the edge of the river.

Planning Board: Caryn notes that the Board has not received the application for 19 Hemlock Road, on which Margaret submitted a fact sheet on the septic system. A septic ordinance is among those on the list for Highlands Conformance—George Shivas or Kurt Senesky would know more.

Tri-County Regional Forums: Two films to show—*King Corn*, which the EC will promote at Byram Day and show in October or November (Margaret will email possible dates for the municipal building main meeting room)); *Crude*, Sundance award-winning film about impacts on Amazon headwaters.

Quarry: Margaret checked on status of Tilcon's Highlands Applicability Determination application and the EC's comments. The review has not occurred yet.

Route 206 project: Still to schedule meeting between NJDOT and Musconetcong Watershed Association (Beth Styler-Barry, who is working with Scott). We need to find substantial mitigation areas along Lubbers Run.

Soil importation ordinance: Dave will have draft next time.

**Adjourn:** 9:25 p.m.

