

**BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES, JUNE 24, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Chairperson Sue Wise, Caryn Segal, Dawn Boyer, Sheila Hall, Michelle Rehse, Council Liaison Scott Olson, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity. Also present was Township Recreation Director Janet Meisner.

The May minutes were approved: motion by Sheila; second by Dawn; unanimous.

**Correspondence:**

June ANJEC webinars: Adam is not present to report on the one he attended; Sue could not attend.

ANJEC grant on three-town trail link: To close by summer's end; Margaret to inform Lyndsay Bouchal at the NJ Herald about events.

Highlands Stakeholders Meeting, June 15: Scott attended and delivered comments; most of the 100 or so attendees were favorable toward the Highlands.

**Business:**

EC membership: Leah Lowry, who lives on Tamarack Road between Johnson Lake and the Roseville intersection, has expressed interest in the EC open seat; Margaret will contact her.

There are still open seats on the Recreation Committee. Janet said the Committee is looking for someone with a broad interest in recreation but also needs someone with knowledge of trails. Sheila is interested and will write to Municipal Clerk Doris Flynn, copied to Janet.

Dawn Boyer must resign her seat, as her new teaching schedule at SCCC conflicts with our meetings; she wants to maintain the link between the EC and her teaching in Byram and also may want to become part of Byram's Sustainable Jersey Green Team.

Cutoff rail reactivation: Scott reported on the June 22 site visit with NJDEP Land Use officials, Charlie Welch and Becky Ehrenfeld, regarding wetlands and flood plain permit applications.

They walked from the Roseville bridge arch to the Roseville Tunnel. A tributary to a C-1 stream initiates here, coming down from the Forest Lakes neighborhood near the bridge arch, along the Cutoff almost to the tunnel, and back almost to the arch (lots of water all over the track bed in this area). NJDEP officials wanted to define this as a drainage ditch but there were fish in it; it is also labeled as a wetlands on the PSE&G plans and farther down as a C-1 stream. Janet remembers that this stream network and its buffers limited the uses allowed by NJDEP at C.O. Johnson Park. The NJDEP field representatives said these are all low level wetlands, needing no protection or remediation. We will continue to raise these issues during the LOI and permitting process.

No Net Loss and Community Forestry Plan: The EC adopted a motion to accept minor final revisions by Township Manager Joe Sabatini: motion by Sue; second by Caryn; unanimous. Margaret will tell Joe.

The EC must send any further recommendations to Joe by July 6, in time for the next Council meeting.

Trails/streams:

- Sussex Branch Trail 5-town advocacy letter for repairs—expecting some results.
- The beaver dam at the juncture of Lubbers Run and the Musconetcong River is gone.
- Musconetcong Management Council (MMC)(Scott): Meet the River with the Musconetcong Watershed Association on August 7; Janet will inform the Recreation Committee.

Michelle Rehse and Scott will ask the Township Council to appoint them as Byram's representative and alternate to the MMC. Michelle is on the MMC Scenic Subcommittee.

Also some grants available through the Royal Bank of Canada;

paddling trip July 3; next meeting July 27; some bylaw changes being proposed; held event to pull out water chestnuts in Lake Musconetcong; April MMC available from Michelle. Check website.

- Forester Ron Farr expects to finish blazing boundaries of Arnell, Owners Maintenance, and Beckmann OS parcels by end of August; then EC will continue work on trails on Arnell and OM (Beckmann trail completed by scouts).
- Brookwood Park (Vetter) grant application on hold while Joe Sabatini deals with comments sent to NJDEP by E. Brookwood Water Company.

Clean Communities Fund: Dawn will re-email the drawings from the school's litter campaign; the EC agreed that Dawn should pick one; Scott will help with graphics for the postcard/posters to be funded through the Clean Communities Fund.

ANJEC grant application for Lake Lackawanna storm drains: Margaret to ask why we did not get this grant.

Open Space issues: EC members are to send to Margaret any comments on the draft map and text sections of the proposed update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The EC will submit a draft update of the Trails Map by mid-July for this OS Plan update.

Report on May 21 visit to various open space sites by members of the EC and the OS Committee: The proposed preservation of the Freeman parcel (below and contiguous with the Beckmann OS parcel) was not supported by the group. Various ideas about parking for the Beckmann OS parcel and trail—park at Johnson Lake and walk across dam and then across Tamarack Road; the group was not favorable toward shoulder parking on Old Indian Springs Road.

PSE&G powerline: Sheila must recuse herself during any discussions as her Morris County agency is reviewing soil issues on this project. Scott reports that the Musconetcong Watershed Association is still awaiting a response on wetlands mitigation for this project—to keep it within Byram, possibly along Lubbers Run in the East Brookwood to stop stormwater from flowing down streets in the river

or at the Wild West City parcel along Lubbers Run, or at Lake Lackawanna along Lubbers Run.

Planning Board applications and issues: EC members to meet for a site walk of the lower quarry parcel on Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m.

Tri County Regional Forum: Margaret has reserved the main meeting room in the municipal building for the Wednesday, November 3 screening of King Corn.

Quarry: Margaret checking on status of Tilcon's Highlands Applicability Determination application.

Route 206 project: Still awaiting response about remediation within Byram for wetlands disturbances. NJDOT did improve its silt fencing following the Musconetcong Watershed Association complaint.

Sustainable Jersey: All still in process; the core Green Team will consist of Scott, Michelle, Marie Raffay, Donna Griff, and Dawn Boyer—needs official Council appointment?

Soil importation ordinance: Dave Gray working on a draft.

**New business:**

Yard waste dumping on Roger and Knute Drives: Joe and Zoning Officer John Gutwerk and DPW Superintendent Adolf Steyh discussing; Margaret will check with NJDEP about the stream along which the waste is being dumped.

Margaret to check ongoing dumping on Belton Street.

Byram Day: Discuss at July EC meeting. Geo-caching again? Also discussion of a Byram running team, of running and bicycle teams that meet at the restaurant Salt, of Janet's bicycle group, and of the 'Cutoff marathon,' which Scott discussed with some NJDEP officials.

**Adjourn:** 9 p.m. Motion by Sheila; second by Caryn; unanimous.