

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES, JULY 22, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. Present were Chairperson Sue Wise, Daven Baez, Caryn Segal, Michelle Rehse, Sheila Hall, Council Liaison Scott Olson, and secretary Margaret McGarrity. Also Scout Maxim Fortuni and his mother attended; Maxim is from Troop 151 and must give a presentation on a community issue, presenting various points of view.

Minutes for June were postponed until the August meeting.

Correspondence and updates:

Seats on Recreation Committee: Sheila will apply.

Quarry Highlands Applicability Determination application: NJDEP still reviewing; Margaret to check again.

Cutoff: Work delayed again, until November.

Yard waste dumping on Knute/Roger Drives: Margaret to get update from Joe Sabatini, to check with NJDEP about dumping near stream, and to look at Belton site.

MWA: Meet the River at Riverside Park on August 7, 10 to noon.

ANJEC grant application for Lackawanna storm drains: We did not get the grant because we already had another ANJEC grant underway; the EC agreed to resubmit this application in 2011. Scott will email the link to 'grant station,' which lists federal/national grants.

Business:

Membership: Margaret will contact Leah Lowry; Sue will inform the mayor that she wants to be appointed as the sole chair person.

CFP and No Net Loss: Byram's Community Forestry Plan is under State review for approval by mid-August. Rose Yoo received the Council's Letter of Intent saying Byram wants to apply for all of its NNL funding and she will contact us once she has her NNL funding plan approved. She expects our money to still be available.

Tri-Community Trail Links grant project: Opening ceremony September 12 at 2 p.m., with local delegations walking to the meeting point on the old Cutoff bridge. Margaret will alert the list of volunteers who called in after reading about this project in the newspapers.

Trails and Streams:

- Repair of North Shore Road to Whitehall Hill Road section of Sussex Branch Trail: Byram's DPW finished their work; State Park Superintendent Rocky Gott will inspect and install gates; Margaret will close out the grant.
- Repair of 'Whitehall Washout' section of Sussex Branch Trail: The 5-town advocacy letter to our State representatives resulted in NJDOT doing some drainage repairs, which should help prevent further damage and make the trail more passable. Still more work to do, including filling in the major washout in Andover Borough. Margaret will check with Helen Carew in McHose-Chiusano-Oroho's office and with Rocky Gott about possible ongoing repairs.
- Trails on three municipal open space parcels:
 - ✓ Beckmann parcel—Brenda Holzinger will do a last inspection of the trail blazed by Eagle Scout Alex Livesey and members of his troop and ask if his troop will agree to maintain the trail. We still need a kiosk and to resolve parking needs at Tamarack Road trail head.
 - ✓ Arnell/Owners Maintenance—Forester Ron Farr will find the missing corners at Arnell and OM and finish blazing the boundaries of both parcels by the end of August. Trail route has been started; still need kiosk and to resolve shoulder parking on Andover-Mohawk Road.
 - ✓ The EC agreed that trails should be opened when finished (with good publicity for Beckmann, the first) but that we should have a joint opening ceremony when all are done.
- Brookwood Park (Vetter) trail grant application: Scott will get an update from Township Manager Joe Sabatini. Following the letter sent by the East Brookwood water company to NJDEP claiming that some of the details of the application violate the Clean Water Act with regard to their well head, Joe asked NJDEP officials to clarify that issue. Is our application still alive?
- Mansfield Bike Path washout: Repaired with gravel surfacing; no additional tarring until the stormwater runoff problems from the Cutoff rail r.o.w. are resolved (during the reconstruction of the rail line).
- Musconetcong River Management Council: Michelle and Scott were appointed by our Council as representative and alternate for 2-year terms. EC to generate ideas for grant applications submitted through MRMC.

Clean Communities Fund money for EC anti-littering campaign: \$1,400 for postcards/posters. Sue will call Dawn Boyer about picking a student drawing. (See more about this under discussion of Byram Day.)

Update of Open Space and Recreation Plan: Scott, Caryn to generate comments from the EC on the map and text pages submitted for review by The Land Conservancy of NJ. Adam Rosenberg, Brenda Holzinger, John Gumb to submit GPS data on all trails within Byram (including State trails) for the Trails and Greenways map.

PSE&G powerline update: Township Engineer Cory Stoner has been working in the field with PSE&G and will be paid through the PSE&G escrow funds. Although PSE&G said they would not work on the section through Byram, they have reapplied for wetlands and floodplain permits. The EC should review these applications for ‘errors and omission,’ but not ask to have the permits denied (a condition of the escrow agreement between Byram and PSE&G). Send our comments through Joe Sabatini and Township Attorney Tom Collins.

The National Park Service is holding its hearings on alternatives powerline routes on August 17, 18, 19.

Planning Board:

- Site walk of lower quarry site on Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m.; meet there. Scott reports that there is a vernal pond on the contiguous parcel to the east of the lower quarry parcel and that this parcel is within a Highlands ‘water deficit area’—the EC should seek maximum groundwater recharge. Margaret will email to all the IPR zoning ordinance that affects this parcel. Eric Serrilli of the Township Architectural Review Committee is asking professors from the Rutgers sustainability institute to review these plans and work with Byram.
- A full application for the CVS/Barone’s site is expected by end August. Margaret will email the application to all as soon as it arrives.
- Caryn will check to see what kind of septic information is required on Planning Board applications.

Tri-County Regional Forum: November 3 screening of King Corn in the main meeting room. Sue will send a blurb to Margaret for placement on the Township/EC website and publication in newspapers. The EC talked about holding a joint film series with the NJ Highlands Coalition (they will co-sponsor the King Corn showing) at various venues, including such films as The Horse and The Plow, Crude, Ghost Waters, etc.

Sustainable Jersey: Get a Green Team member from the Architectural Review Committee? Sparta held a kickoff meeting to publicize their Green Team and Sustainable Jersey projects; discussion of doing something similar in Byram, perhaps at Salt.

Soil importation ordinance: Dave will have a draft in one to two weeks and will email to all ECers before the next meeting. He merged our original draft ordinance and comments thereon with other towns' ordinances.

Byram Day: Margaret will call Adam Rosenberg to ask if he will do geo-caching again. Caryn will print a poster announcing the November 3 film showing of King Corn (with Sue's blurb). Scott will ask Recreation Director Janet Meisner about whether there will 'communiversity' lectures again. The EC will hold a contest to design a postcard for the anti-littering campaign—crayola markers, colored pencils, and a sheet with a form at the top for name, phone etc.

Adjourn: 8:50 p.m.