

# BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

May 26, 2016 Minutes

Call to order: 7:30

In attendance: James Meyers, Jim Reinhold, Nora Amato, Steve Levy, Michelle Rehse, Lisa Shimamoto, Katie Parish, Donna Koenig, and guests Luanne and John Byrne

A motion was made by James to approve the March & April 2016 Minutes, seconded by Jim, Michelle

## **Correspondence and updates:**

- John and Luanne Byrne were invited to the meeting so that John could present his interactive trail program. This program allows users to view the trail and/or their progress on the trail from Google Maps using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. Users can click on points of interest along a trail, trail information, photos, text, videos, as well as a link to Wikipedia for articles or more information. EC members would have to walk the trails first with a Garmin to download coordinates, Navitend would set up the format, then EC members would input information/photos. Will have John come in and present it to Joe. [johnbyrne7@gmail.com](mailto:johnbyrne7@gmail.com).
- Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure: An eco-friendly approach to storm water management – introducing ways to control storm water runoff which replenishes underground aquifers and limits pollution to waterways. Donna to send all members Green Infrastructure info. Byram Day?
- Volunteers for Sussex County Day – Jim volunteered again, thanks Jim, but it was postponed due to rain. Sussex County Day will now be held on the same day as Champion of the Grill BBQ and Blues Fest, Sunday, 9/18/16 at the Sussex County Fairgrounds.
- Ongoing: Community Forestry Management Plan: 5 year (2015 – 2019) management plan distributed to keep up to date with programs and requirements that will maintain Byram's status with the DEP's NJ State Forestry Services. Presently working on Phase II of NNL Grant. Donna to apply for Byram's re-certification as a Tree City
- Ongoing: Conserve Wildlife – Stephanie D'Alessio, Director of Education at Conserve Wildlife, offered to put together any kind of Environmental Program we would like - for any age or group.

## **Business**

Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean! Postcard: Discussed revising 2 postcards, the recycle and stormwater. Both need updating, the recycle postcard shows outdated information and the stormwater should include additional information. Cathy emailed a redesign for the stormwater card. Donna to email her work up to all EC members, as well as scan and send recycle postcards to all members.

- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant – 2016 Open Space Stewardship Project grant for \$1500 was awarded to Byram. This will be used to update the trails page of the website. EC will be involved in

inputting trail information onto the website once Navitend makes the necessary revisions on the back end format. The grant requires project be completed in a year.

- Share the Woods signs – Donna to contact ANJEC to see how they handle hiking/hunting trails
- Amphibian Crossing Project –Byram Township will not be the Grant Applicant, however, will support in any way possible. Donna to contact Kelly Triece to offer EC help and support.
- Rec Committee and EC have organized a 50-Miler seasonal hike. Applicants need to sign up and download the 50-Miler Log, application form, and Byram Trail Guide (on the website, under Community-Recreation programs), then walk weekly on Township trails. We discussed allowing trails from surrounding areas - Janet (Recreational Director) permitted. Begins April 15<sup>th</sup>, ends October 15<sup>th</sup>. Residents will chart and keep track of their own miles (pedometer, fit bit, etc.). Dinner/award celebration at the end of October at a local restaurant – open for suggestions on awards/prizes. Donna to send 50-mile event to Township Journal.
- *Ongoing* - Vernal Pool (maintenance) and Butterfly Garden creation – Patti Poff interested in creating one on school grounds. Wanted input/help from EC. Patti will be in touch throughout the year.
- Mayor’s Monarch Pledge – Mayor Jim O. has agreed and signed, on behalf of Byram Township, the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayor’ Pledge. This pledge means that Byram will “take a stand” to help the Monarch Butterfly flourish. Katie Baron (Byram resident), who created and is maintaining 2 butterfly gardens, brought this pledge to the Mayor’s attention and is offering to help Patti Poff create one at the school. Katie has also expressed an interest in joining the EC. Donna will contact her to let her know our next meeting date. The “Milkweeds for Monarchs” seed project the EC did in 2014 was summarized and sent to Mayor Jim, as well as Katie.
- Byram Day – Discussed what the EC will exhibit for Byram Day. ANJEC has environmental displays, handouts, and games available for loan - Donna to call ANJEC & get info, then either scan or bring info to the next meeting. Also need to discuss prizes, handouts.
- Septic Management Program – to discuss at next meeting
- Retention Basins – Steve Smith confirmed they are not mowing areas that Margaret deemed “off limits”
- Discussed sending a letter to DPW about cleaning then posting “No Dumping” signs at storm drains and retention basins

### **Planning Board Applications:**

Jefferson Lakes Day Camp – Proposed construction of 3 new structures and renovations to an existing building, along with other improvements. EC submitted the following comments:

- *Need an erosion and sediment control plan for disturbed areas: “existing gravel, slate, wood, and paving stone walkways will be removed from building B14” and the “removal of portions of the existing paved drive near existing building B14.”*
- *Is there a sufficient buffer in accordance with the “10’ wide vegetative buffer along at least 80% of water’s edge” where the deck (W12) is being proposed?*
- *Any effect on the tree line where the tree house is being proposed?*

### **Trails:**

- Created an excel spread sheet to keep track of what trails were maintained, when, and volunteers involved. In the process of creating a volunteer email list
- Ongoing –QR codes to be added to trailhead sign posts, gave James some to post as he hikes
- *May 21<sup>st</sup>* - Johnson Lake clean up –8 volunteers cleaned Johnson Lake Trail and part of the Cranberry Overlook Trail – Reports of downed trees that need to be removed along Cranberry Overlook. Donna to notify DPW of these. Volunteers JoAnn and Phyllis were much appreciated and EC members “want them at every trail maintenance!” Donna to send thank you notes to them.
- Briar Ridge Trail – needs maintenance, this will be our next volunteer trail day
- Glenside Woods Trail and Ranger Trail – question as to if these trail meet, maybe hike as a group?
- White diamond blazes – Township has 100 in inventory, gave Jim a pack of blazes for the Cranberry Overlook.
- Resident John Byrne developed a program allowing users with smartphones, tablets, or computers to access trails, photos, and trail info - presented at the meeting
- Tabled - Geocaching – idea to get residents familiar with trails, EC could create a geocaching treasure /scavenger hunt/hike

### **Forestry:**

- *Ongoing - No Net Loss Grant* – Several township properties were identified for possible planting designs. Met with Township staff, Cory Stoner and Matt Morris (Township Engineer and Landscape Arch.) January 22. Matt will visit sites and put together an initial design.
- *Ongoing* - Tree City USA signs to be installed

### **Expenditures and budget:**

- The following memberships have been renewed: \$565 for membership dues (ANJEC, MWA, NYNJ Trail Conference, Arbor Day, & Shade Tree of our \$2600 budget.
- \$200 – to Conserve Wildlife for Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration.

### **Reports from committees:**

- Musconetcong River: Michelle – nothing to report

- Open Space Committee: Michelle – nothing to report
- Council: Dave Gray –

**Adjourn**

9:45