

Environmental Commission  
May 24, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. Members present included James Myers, Eric Duch, Helene Jaros, Casey McGuffy, Jim Reinhold, Planning Board Liaison Lisa Shimamoto, Councilman Scott Olson and Secretary Donna Fett.

A motion was made by James, seconded by Jim to accept the April 26, 2018 meeting minutes.

Ongoing Business:

- Arbor Day Planting – The Township Manager prefers that the Norway Spruce Tree be planted by the school house on Township property. DPW would be able to maintain the tree and run power for future tree lighting events. EC members brainstormed on other potential areas in Byram that had more visibility. However, members were not able to determine a different location at this time. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Jim to plant the tree at the school house.

A discussion occurred on the size of the tree. The original request was for a 7-8' Norway Spruce which would grow to 30-40' max. EC members are concerned that the tree is too small to be readily visible from the road. They would like to request the price of a larger tree and they believed the next higher size would be 10-12'. Jim will contact Cerbo for options and pricing and this will be discussed with Township management.

- Spring Trail Clean-up at Tamarack Park – The spring trail clean-up event will be held on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to noon. The Recreation Department agreed to co-sponsor this event and will be leading a hike. A press release has been submitted to the Township Journal and the Township website has also been updated. EC Secretary will coordinate registration and will submit a press release to the NJ Herald.

EC members Eric and Jim will participate, along with Lisa and possibly James. EC members will meet at CO Johnson side. Donna will bring hold harmless agreements and gloves. Participants who are cleaning the trail (removing barberry) will be advised to meet at CO Johnson side and to bring gloves, bug spray and water. Participants who wish to hike will be advised to meet Jen Kerr (Rec Director) at the Tamarack Park side. If hiker find any trash on the trail, Jen will ask them to place it in a pile on the side of the trail and she will inform Donna of its location so it can be removed.

- Delaware Basin/Watershed Fracking Regulations Resolution Request – Scott was very pleased to report that Council approved the resolution request.

- ANJEC 2018 Open Space Grant Update – Unfortunately we were not awarded the grant to update the open space map.

#### Committee Reports:

- Open Space – Although we were not awarded the ANJEC grant, Open Space Committee is pursuing an alternate county open space stewardship/maintenance grant. The next meeting is June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Rec – The Rec Committee is interested in sponsoring a photo contest for Nat’l Trails Day. They will invite participants to take photos while hiking the trail. Photos will be submitted to Jen (Rec Director) who will post them on a Rec FB page where people can vote on their favorites. The resident who has the most “likes” will receive a gift card. Next meeting is June 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Planning Board Applications:

- Tomahawk Lake – requesting a variance and amended site plan for constructing three water slides (two of which are replacements), a concession stand and to allow for overflow parking on a grassy area. Lisa confirmed that the grassy area was previously farmland and does not require any trees to be cut down. Donna indicated that this application is on the July Planning Board meeting agenda, so EC will have time to provide additional comments if needed.

EC reviewed this application and had the following comments:

- The EC is concerned with the possibility of soil compaction by increased driving and parking on now pervious grass areas, making them less pervious, and the impact it may have on stormwater run-off and soil erosion in areas that previously absorbed rainwater.
  - Please share any plans you have regarding stormwater management in the area of the proposed concession stand.
- Meade – 1 Pine Point – requesting a front yard variance to install a handicap ramp.

EC reviewed this application and had the following comment - As the property is lakefront, please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 240) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10’ wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings.

#### Training:

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Tree Farm Day at Stag Lake. Scott will coordinate registration if members are interested in attending. Registration is due by Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Jim and Lisa Reinhold are registered, along with Councilman Harvey Roseff. Jim was reminded to ensure he and Lisa sign in to ensure Forestry CEUs are received. A total of 4 CEU’s can be earned for the day.

Scott encouraged EC members to register for appropriate training/educational opportunities so we can continue to increase our knowledge and stay aware of current environmental related issues.

Membership:

Casey McGuffy advised she is interested in becoming an EC member. At the recent Council meeting, Casey received her mayoral appointment for the Alternate I position – welcome to our newest EC member!

Expenditures and Budget:

Balance of \$1,902 remains.

Other:

The next CAG meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Lisa will be attending. Secretary distributed updated members contact list and draft article on earning Tree City USA status (to be posted to EC website).

Helene obtained some background on the Lockwood Cemetery from the Historical Society. There is a need for restoration and she thought there might be some great scout projects (examples repair/replace the signage, do tombstone rubbings and cataloging, etc.). Scott indicated that there is a lot of history there and even contains the grave of a Revolutionary War veteran. Helene will continue to research this.

EC Secretary was asked to contact SCMUA to determine when the fee free Rigid Plastics Day will be held and invite Rec Director to our next meeting.

Scott reported that Waterloo is holding Farmer's Market every Sunday beginning June 24<sup>th</sup>. He also advised that there is presentation on the history of Byram side of Lake Mohawk at Town Hall at 7pm on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming Events/Key Dates:

Free Hazardous Household Waste Day at SCMUA – June 2<sup>nd</sup>

EC Trail Clean-Up at Tamarack Park – June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Township Wide Garage Sale – June 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>

Byram Day – September 8<sup>th</sup>

Hudson Farms Charity Hike – October 13<sup>th</sup>