

# BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## January 28, 2016 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Present were: Vice Chair Michelle Rehse, Lisa Shimamoto, Catherine Varian, James Myers, Council Liaison Dave Gray, Secretary Donna Koenig, and guest Steven Levy

Minutes for approval: Dec. 21, 2015 – Tabled till February meeting

### **Correspondence and updates:**

- EC members will start to photograph events and send them to Donna to be added to our section of the website.
- Steep slope ordinance: Donna to send a copy of ordinance 240 29.2 to all members.
- Soil ordinance: Unanimous decision to postpone discussion.
- Ongoing: Community Forestry Management Plan: 5 year (2015 – 2019) management plan. Byram's responsibilities for 2016 are:
  - \* Complete tree planting from the first NNL Grant
  - \* Reassess hazard trees throughout the Township
  - \* Complete annual training requirements, obtaining at least 8 CEU's – EC needs to have members earn volunteer credits.
  - \* Submit Annual Accomplishments report (EC Secretary to submit early 2017 for 2016)
  - \* Celebrate Arbor Day (EC needs to host)
  - \* Re-certify for Tree City USA
  - \* Apply for CSIP Grant to complete a street tree inventory in developed areas for the Township and/or for removal of hazardous trees
  - \* Begin the second NNL Grant planting
- 2015 Environmental Commission Achievements – Annual report was passed out for critiquing. This will be submitted for the Townships Annual 2015 Report.

### **Business:**

- Tilcon annual quarry licensing application: Discussed soil reclamation, wetlands letter interpretation, stream encroachment, and reinforcement of soil ordinance. The EC reviewed the application and submits the following comments:
  - ✓ Concern with the attached letters regarding stream encroachment (1999) and wetlands (2002) being expired. These letters are good for a certain period of time, which Byram will need to re-examine. These letters can be found in the book submitted by Tilcon Engineering Department.
- Update *Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean!* Postcard: Cathy reviewing postcard.
- Membership: Steven Levy from 32 Sleepy Hollow Rd. attended and hopefully will be interested in becoming a member. If so, I will pass on his resume to Municipal Clerk.
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant for Open Space Stewardship Projects applications due April 1, 2016. Emailed grant application to members so we can discuss what/how this grant money can

work for us. Suggested we partner up with Patty Poff & students involved. Joe S. suggested using the grant money to promote Eco-tourism – enhancing & updating our website regarding our trails: add photos, maps, descriptions, connections, volunteer work days.

- Share the Woods signs – Addressed the issue of posting signs on hiking trails letting people know that during certain seasons hunting is allowed and hikers should be mindful of this. Donna to find out if and how other towns surrounding Byram do this.
- Environmental Commission Training – Three half-day sessions are being offered in March designed for both new and experienced EC'ers. These sessions will include info on networking and natural resources in our community. Passed out flyers at the meeting. Anyone interested please let me know.

### **Planning Board Applications:**

- Reviewed Jared Auchter – 25 Lake Dr. application and submitted to the Planning Board the following comments:
  - ✓ No comments on the location of the Standby Generator.
  - ✓ Lakefront property: a 10' wide vegetative buffer, comprised from the attached Native Plant List, recommended along at least 80% of water's edge.
- Reviewed George Westefeld and Sharon McCarroll – 88 Birch Pkwy. Application and submitted to the Planning Board the following comments:
  - ✓ Lakefront property requires a 10' wide vegetative buffer along at least 80% of the water's edge, however, in viewing the photos and survey included in this application, the EC feels the deck, sea-wall, and partial walkway/planter along the shoreline is sufficient.

### **Trails:**

- *Spring*: Blazes with QR code to be added to trailhead sign posts
- *Spring*: 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail
- *Spring*: Brookwood Park trail maintenance, DPW to address the slope at the start of the trail
- *Spring*: Johnson Lake clean up (add bench)

### **Forestry:**

- 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.
- Tree City USA signs: Have two signs which will be installed at town hall and on 206 as you enter Byram.

### **Expenditures and budget:**

EC Budget: \$2600. Membership renewals: ANJEC \$360, NJ Shade Tree Federation \$95, Musconetcong Watershed Assoc. \$100, Arbor Day Foundation \$15, and NY NJ Trail Conference \$50. A total of \$620.

### **Reports from committees:**

- Musconetcong River: Michelle
  - ✓ Michelle asked if we received our Re-appointment letter, MRMC emailed a copy. Will bring to next meeting.
  - ✓ Reviews and comments regarding NJ Highlands Council Regional Master Plan

✓ Annual River Clean-up, Sat. April 16<sup>th</sup> 9am to 12 noon. MWA is looking for volunteers to help clean up anywhere from Lake Hopatcong to Delaware River. Interested, visit [musconetcong.org](http://musconetcong.org).

- Open Space Committee: Michelle – Nothing to report.
- Council: Dave Gray – “good climate to pass ordinances.”

**Adjourn.**