

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:35. In attendance were: James Myers, Nora Amato, Donna Koenig, Lisa Shimamoto, Catherine Varian, and Donna Fett.

September 22, 2016 meeting minutes were approved by James, seconded by Lisa.

Business:

The new EC secretary, Donna Fett, was introduced and welcomed.

2016 ANJECT EC Grant - Donna F. showed members the revised Tamarack Park Trail layout, including the google maps link and all were in favor of the format. She also showed the Trails Icon which will provide a link to the Trails Page directly from Byram Twp's home page to make it easier for residents to locate the Trails Pages. Catherine asked if anyone had contact Mr. Johnson's sons who may have historical information from Cranberry Lake Overlook - Donna K. volunteered to do this. Donna F. reminded EC members to take pictures of the trails, to keep a log sheet of their hours and will send EC members a logsheet to use.

Green Infrastructure Initiative - Briefly discussed ideas suggested by this initiative, which includes rain gardens and barrels around Byram Twp. Donna F. will advise when the next meeting is scheduled.

Byram School Request - Unfortunately no one from EC is available to attend student presentations on water conservation to be held on 11/4 (1:30-2:30). EC advised that perhaps Steven Levy might be available to participate; Donna F. will contact Steven if he is available, otherwise she will volunteer.

Tilcon Quarry - James will review the quarry application. Donna F. to contact Cory to be added to email distribution for future Tilcon related information.

50 Miler Byram Event - James will represent EC on the 10/28 dinner. EC discussed doing more advertising for next year - suggestions included to create a flyer for schools, advertise with scouts, etc.

2017 EC Meeting Dates - 2017 meeting dates were reviewed and approved. Donna F. to update website.

New Member Request - EC reviewed Eric Duch's resume and asked Donna F. to invite him to attend a future EC meeting.

Town Committee Collaboration Meeting - Donna F. reported that as a result of the 9/29 meeting, joint meetings between EC, Open Space and Rec Committee were recommended. Shawn Armstrong (Rec) was unable to participate in EC meeting today, but supports this initiative. It was discussed that perhaps Michelle who is also Open Space liaison, could represent both Open Space and EC at Rec Meetings. It was suggested that members could rotate between meetings - for example, one month Shawn (or other Rec member) could attend EC meeting, another month EC member could attend Rec meeting, rather

than holding separate meetings. There might be a need to do a quarterly joint meeting. Nora volunteered to attend the next Rec meeting, which is scheduled for 11/2 at 7:30. Donna F. will send any Rec related meeting minutes to the Rec Committee to facilitate communications. Lisa advised that the Rec Committee would like to get more involved with the Trails.

Byram Day Wrap-up: Donna F. is still trying to determine who the Sunnyside Gift Certificate winner was and contacted Donna Griff. If unable to obtain contact information from Donna G., she will contact Sunnyside to see if they have this information. EC discussed the "Name the Lakes" residents contact information obtained on Byram Day and Donna F. will email them to see if they would be interested in being added to the Trails Maintenance email group.

EC Request / Planning Board Process - Lisa advised how Planning Board applications are circulated to EC for review. Donna F. circulates the applications to EC and collects responses, which are consolidated and circulated back to EC for final review prior to sending to Planning Board. This is normally done in a timely fashion in advance of Planning Board meetings. However, from time to time there may be special requests, such as the CAD application. Lisa explained the CAD situation and ensured the members that EC comments are discussed at the Planning Board meetings.

DEP Permit Request / IAT Reinsurance Company - EC reviewed the plans to replace the existing deteriorated structure and replace it with a culvert. EC members confirmed that structure was not considered to be historically significant and that the environmental impact was completed. EC had no comments to this request.

Ongoing:

Amphibian Tunnel Grant - James signed the letter for NJ DEP, showing Byram Twp. support for this project. Donna F. reported that this project is moving forward! NJDEP is the grant applicant. Kelly Triece invited Byram Twp. to attend a kick-off meeting on 11/7 from 10am-noon at Waterloo Village and this invite will be sent to Council for their review.

Septic Management Program - EC advised that David requested this agenda item. Donna F. reported that septic pumping is mandatory every three years, for residents who live a certain distance to a lake, such as Lackawanna and Cranberry Lake. There is a \$15 fee for this service and it is believed to be an administration fee. Donna F. will ask Dave if this is still needed to be on future agendas.

Retention Basins - EC members are concerned that there are leaves and debris in retention basins, even though there are some "no dumping" signs posted. EC members would like a list of retention basins, Donna F. to obtain. Donna K. volunteered to look at them and see if there is a need for a sign. EC members discussed the possibility of establishing a Garden Club to possibly better maintain these retention basins. Donna K. advised that Chester has a Garden Club and she will inquire with them how they got started.

Planning Board Applications:

CAD comments were discussed. Lisa indicated that both engineers disagreed with James' comment on fertilizers. This may require updating the engineering and landscaping professionals regarding fertilizer.

Trails - Trail Maintenance for Briar Ridge and Glenside Trails was postponed due to inclement weather. No new date has been determined but perhaps this can be a joint effort with Rec.

Expenditures/Budget:

Donna F. advised that EC has spent a total of \$924, with a balance remaining of \$1,677, for a total budget of \$2,600. She advised that she was contacted by Patti Poff (Byram Schools) with a request for a speaker as well as EC help on potential school projects such as vernal pond maintenance, bat houses, etc. EC discussed adding a line item in our budget for education/speakers.

A brief discussion occurred regarding 2017 budget. Donna F. indicated that we may wish to allocate some funds towards the Spring Grand Opening Event of Tamarack Park Fields. There has been discussion of having a tent with Open Space/Rec/EC at the event. EC will use some funds for Arbor Day / Earth Day celebrations as well (plant bushes?), partner with schools, scouts, etc.?

Reports From Committees:

Musconetcong River - Michelle (not in attendance, no report)

Open Space - Michelle (not in attendance, no report)

Council - Dave (not in attendance, no report)

Board of Health - Dave (not in attendance, no report)

Other:

Stormwater Management Program - Donna F. reported that Byram Twp. is required to attain 10 points each year to demonstrate our commitment to stormwater management. For the most part, this is achieved through Town Hall displays, an annual letter distributed by the Mayor and various links on our website. It was suggested that EC consider sponsoring a poster contest next year with the schools to raise community awareness. Donna F. will email the document that describes the various ways to accumulate 10 points. Lisa indicated that Katie was working on a stormwater management flyer.

Natural Resource Inventory List - this list needs to be updated. Donna K. volunteered to start researching.

Mansfield Dumpsite - Lisa advised that the Community Adv. Group is starting up again. Donna F. to contact Council to be apprised of activities and will forward information to EC as obtained.

Next Meeting - November 21 moved to Monday due to Thanksgiving holiday

Motion to adjourn at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fett, EC Secretary