

# BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## January 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. Members present included: James Myers, Nora Amato, Eric Duch, Donna Koenig, Jim Reinhold, Lisa Shimamoto, and Donna Fett.

Minutes for approval:

October 27, 2016 - minutes were approved with a motion made by James, seconded by Lisa.

December 19, 2016 - minutes were approved with a motion was made by Jim, seconded by James.

### New Business:

- Grand Opening of Tamarack Park - Reviewed the draft press release and suggested adding something about appreciating the sale of land to Byram. James will work on a quote to be used for the press release, after discussion with Michelle. Nora volunteered to be part of working group to help plan the event.
- Land Conservancy Grant - Land Conservancy is offering assistance with a grant application which can be used for Sustainable Jersey grant and certification activities. It was noted that this grant could be used towards updating the Natural Resource Inventory document, should we pursue this. It appears that Land Conservancy will assist with the grant application provided we hired Land Conservancy to help complete the project the grant was applied for. The deadline for this grant is February 28, 2017.
- ANJEC Training Opportunity - ANJEC is offering "Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions" workshops for environmental commissions in March and April. Donna and Jim think they went to this workshop in the past and said it was worthwhile.

### Ongoing:

- Amphibian Tunnel Grant - Donna F. advised she followed up with Mackenzie Hall. They are expecting an update from NJDOT in May. Kelly Triece is planning some outreach/awareness events with the schools. They are coordinating pre-construction data collection with volunteers. Donna F. will continue to reach out to provide the EC with updates.
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant - Donna F. received updated Tamarack Park, Jefferson Glen Bike Trail and Cat Swamp trail documents which were reviewed at the meeting. Although we are still missing some pictures, the documents will be posted and pictures will be added in the future after the trails have been hiked.
- Green Infrastructure Initiative (Storm Water Management Techniques) - No update available on the revisions to the proposal.
- Natural Resource Inventory List for Byram - EC members reviewed the current document from 1994 and feel it should be updated to include important parks such as CO Johnson Field. Donna F. will follow-up with Township Manager on this initiative.

- Trex Plastics Recycling Challenge - EC members contributed over 8 lbs. of plastic materials! Donna F. reported that the boy scout troop has collected over 200 lbs. of plastics to date and they are on target for meeting their goal of collecting 500 lbs. by the end of April. An article appeared in the Township Journal this week.
- Rec/Open Space Meetings - No updates available.

**Planning Board Applications:**

- Diorio - request to add a second story to an existing structure, which would require a 25,904' variance for non-conforming to existing setbacks. EC had no comments.

Lisa advised that the following applications which were previously reviewed were approved: Cellco, Chase, and Liquor Factory.

**Trails:**

- Trail Clean-Ups - Donna F. was asked to check the Township calendar for open dates in April/May for a spring trail clean-up.

**Expenditures and Budget:**

Memberships for Arbor Day (\$15), ANJEC with workshop option (\$360) and NJ Shade Tree Foundation (\$95) were processed for payment.

**Reports from Committees:** No reports available.

**Additional:**

- SCMUA determined their free disposal days for E-Waste (3/18, 5/20, 7/22 and 10/14) and Household Hazardous Wastes (6/3, 11/4). These flyers were posted on the Township website.
- The Mayor signed a Proclamation that Byram Township will celebrate Arbor Day on Saturday April 28th. Last year EC arranged a presentation from Conserve Wildlife on rare and endangered NJ wildlife. The prior year, EC distributed seedlings. EC members will think of an activity and discussed a few ideas including a neighborhood clean-up or a midnight hike.
- The recycling postcard is being printed and is expected to be mailed to residents next week.
- The "Recycling Pays" document was reviewed and suggested that it be posted on the EC website. If possible, add prior year's data so we can see the trends.
- BOH Liaison requested discussion on doggie bag dispensers at parks and trailheads. EC members had a discussion and will follow-up to see if Byram has any ordinances on the topic.

**Adjourn** - motion to adjourn at 9:55pm made by James and was seconded by Lisa.

**Next Meeting** - February 23, 2017