

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Those present included James Myers, Eric Duch, Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Lisa Shimamoto and Donna Fett. Also present was Joanne Belvieu, an active trail hiker.

A motion to approve the January meeting minutes was made by Jim and seconded by Lisa. A motion to approve the February meeting minutes was made by Lisa and seconded by Jim.

New Business:

- Arbor Day 2017 Planning - EC members discussed the logistics of obtaining the seedlings. Donna F. will order the seedlings to be delivered to the Municipal Building on Wed. April 26th. She will mist the seedlings. An EC member will pick up the seedlings on Thurs. night at the EC meeting and bring them to C.O. Johnson field on Saturday for distribution.
- ANJEC 2017 Open Space Grant -The focus of this grant was modified to encompass both the updating of the Open Space printed map as well as creating individual trail maps. This will be done by our Open Space Consultant, Ben Spinelli and also requires 80 volunteer hours. These trail maps will be provided to the Township in electronic format so the trails website pages can be updated. In addition, printed maps can be made available. Donna F. will submit the grant application and resolution.
- Spring Trail Clean-up - EC members finalized planning for the April 15th event. An email will be issued to the Trails Maintenance Volunteer list. Volunteers will be asked to meet at Lee Hill Road Firehouse and will walk to Briar Ridge Trail to perform the trail clean-up. If the number of volunteers is large enough, EC may break up into two groups and do both North and South Trails at the same time. Volunteers will be asked to bring their own supplies and Donna F. will bring some extra gloves and the Township's Hold Harmless Agreement.

Ongoing Business:

- Amphibian Tunnel Project - Three migrations have occurred and approximately 780 amphibians were rescued to date. Kelly Triage issued an email that contains more detailed information, including a request for volunteers to perform a Road Kill Survey. Volunteers are needed to walk a section of Waterloo Road to collect data of amphibians and Donna F. will forward that information to the EC members. Kelly anticipates a response from the state about the grant application in May.
- ANJEC 2016 Grant - Documentation to close this project was submitted. A few EC members have not yet submitted their volunteer hours and Donna F. will follow-up with them individually.
- Trex Plastics Challenge - 88 garbage bags were collected. Byram Lakes School will still collect plastics until the end of April. The troop is considering starting another challenge later in the year.

Planning Board Applications:

- Richard Sullivan - 143 Forest Lake Drive - no comments.

- Robert & Kelly Freeman - 101 Amity Road - no comments.
- Kuechenmeister - 16 Union Street - EC members had some comments which will be submitted.

Trails:

Joanne Belvieu reported that she had performed trail maintenance on Briar Ridge Trail. There were several large trees down on the Lee Hill entrance. She will provide Donna F. with more details on where the trees are, so this can be reported to DPW for their assistance in removing the trees. Joanne thinks the rest of the Briar Trail is in good shape.

It was noted that we need to purchase trail blazes. Previously these were purchased from Voss Signs. After discussion of how many we need and reviewing the quantity discounts offered by Voss, a motion was made by Michelle and seconded by Jim to purchase 500 blazes at a cost of \$260.

Expenditures and Budget:

No changes since last month. Budget is \$2,600. EC has spent \$470 on memberships with a balance remaining of \$2,130.

Committee Reports:

Open Space - Michelle will be vacating her Open Space position and suggested that someone from EC might want to volunteer for this position. Eric Duch will go to the next Open Space meeting to find out more information.

Additional:

- Membership - Mayor Oscovitch granted Katie Baron's membership request.

Next Meeting - April 27, 2017

Motion to adjourn at 9:40pm was made by Jim and seconded by Eric.