

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called order at 7:30pm. Members present included: Michele Rehse, Nora Amato, Katie Baron, Eric Duch and Secretary Donna Fett.

A motion to approve the minutes from June 22, 2017 was made by Katie and seconded by Eric.

New Business:

- N/A

Ongoing:

- Byram Day Planning - Sept. 9th from 11am-5pm at Neil Gylling Park (across from Town Hall) with a rain date of Sept. 10th:
 - The Township will provide a table and two chairs. EC determined that they do not need access to electricity, so our table will be under the large tent with other Township Committees. Donna F. submitted the application.
 - EC will assist Board of Health by distributing materials on their behalf.
 - Raffle Baskets - EC will make two raffle baskets, one will have a bee theme and the other will have a butterfly theme. Letters were sent to nine local business requesting specific bee or butterfly related items or a gift card. Donna F. read the names of businesses along with the items which were requested. EC members would be needed to go to the business to pick up the donated items. In the event that the businesses do not donate items, EC would buy the items.
 - Entries for the Raffle Baskets - residents will be able to place an entry for the raffle basket of their choice by completing a short "quiz" based on facts from the poster boards. A council member will pick the winner at 4pm and if the winner is not present, Donna F. will contact them afterwards to pick up their basket.
 - Activities:
 - Face Painting by Nora from 12-3
 - Butterfly Crafts & Milkweed Seed Truffles - throughout the day by Katie
 - Bee Keepers Demonstration - beginning at 11am
 - Supplies:
 - Milkweed Seed Truffles - Katie estimates the cost not to exceed \$20. A motion to purchase these supplies was made by Eric and seconded by Nora. Donna F. will purchase the items.
 - Butterfly Craft - Katie estimates the cost to not exceed \$20. A motion to purchase these supplies was made by Michelle and seconded by Eric. Donna F. will purchase the items.
 - Face Panting - Nora will donate these supplies.
 - Tri-Fold Posters - Donna F. ordered 2 poster boards.
 - ANJEC can provide "games". EC reviewed the options and determined this was not needed.

- Conserve Wildlife Foundation can provide a speaker at \$250. EC determined this was not needed.
- EC members are needed to participate in Byram Day on Sept. 9th. EC would like to set up at 9:30am. Clean-up must be completed by 6pm. A volunteer schedule will need to be set-up, with 2 people present at the table if possible. Katie expects to be there most of the day, but will need coverage during certain times when she helps out with the girl scouts.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

9:30 am - noon	
Noon - 2 pm	Michelle, Nora
2 pm - 4 pm	
4 pm - 6 pm	

- Eric suggested considering doing something with mushroom hunting for next year's Byram Day.
- National Moth Week Event - July 28, 2017 at Allamuchy Mountain State Park - The details of the moth collection event were reviewed and the event flyer is available on the Township's web site.
- Training Updates From ANJEC Sessions Recently Attended - Cathy attended two training sessions: June 27th "Conservation Blueprint Project: Land Priorities for Farms, Habitat, Water and People" and July 12 "Asking the Right Questions in Stormwater Review" (slides are available for review). EC asked for the slides to be placed in a binder and brought to future meetings. In the interim, Michelle took slides to review.
- Membership Renewal Request for NJ Highlands Coalition - Donna F. shared the renewal request letter and EC questioned why we stopped the renewal last year. Michelle and Donna F. will research the benefits to joining this group and advise at the next meeting.

Planning Board Applications:

Lake Mohawk Country Club - request to remove and replacing existing monument sign, gating system and upgrade fence at the southerly entrance to Lake Mohawk Country Club on West Shore. EC had one comment, which will be submitted to the Planning Board. EC recommends that the applicant provide a gap in the granite curbing to address the potential drainage issues at the island.

Trails:

- Trail Maps "App" - John Byrnes was contacted regarding the possibility of overlaying existing geocaching sites and if a link to download a KMZ or GPX file could be added. He confirmed he could do both, but the geocaching overlay would take some time. He could easily add a KMZ file.
- Tamarack Park Points of Interest Review:
 - As discussed last month, NJ's Office of Land Management could research Johnson Lake for us at \$70 per hour. The state was contacted to request samples of information we would obtain by conducting this survey. A separate email was provided with the details of this survey. EC suggested contacting the Byram Historical Society to see if they have any information.

- John Byrnes will be contacted to see if a KMZ file with GPS coordinates would suffice to populate the i-trails "app" for Tamarack Park Trail.
- Trail Blazing - EC members are requested to NOT blaze any more trails at this time to avoid potential duplicate efforts.
- DPW erected a green "Trail" sign by the C.O. Johnson side of Tamarack Park Trailhead so hikers can more easily find the trailhead after parking at C.O. Johnson. This bi-directional sign was placed on an existing No Stopping/No Standing sign on Roseville Road.

Expenditures and Budget:

- Budget \$2600, with a balance remaining of \$1762. Byram Day supplies will be purchased next month and there also may be expenses for Byram Day raffle baskets.

Reports from Committees:

- Results of Musconetcong Water Chestnut Pull in Lake Musconetcong - 43 volunteers and 2 Watershed Ambassadors participated in this event and removed 7,000 lbs. of water chestnut!

Rec/Open Space Meeting Updates:

Eric suggested we contact the Township Forester to determine where milkweed seeds/truffles should be planted and to obtain the status of the boundary marking project.

Other:

- EC would like DPW to consider painting a crosswalk by the Tamarack Trailhead at C.O. Johnson Park so hikers could safely cross Roseville Road.
- EC noticed a lot of poison ivy near the "hard" entrance to Tamarack Park Trailhead at the new field. They suggested rerouting the main entrance to the "easy" entrance to avoid the poison ivy.
- EC would like to consider doing some plantings at certain corners on Route 206, when the state completes the project.
- EC briefly discussed the possibility of making QR codes for each individual trail. It is possible this is included in the I-Trails "app" and will be researched further.
- Donna F. advised of the upcoming paving projects in the Township.

Next Meeting - September 28, 2017

Adjourn - the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm by a motion made by Eric, seconded by Nora.