

## **BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES, JULY 23, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Chair Sheila Hall, Lisa Shimamoto, Daven Baez, Sue Wise, Michele Rehse, Caryn Segal, Adam Rosenberg, Council Liaison Scott Olson, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity.

Also present was Suzy Von Lengerke, resident from Stag Lake.

Rowena McNulty has resigned her seat, by email this afternoon to Margaret. She is pressed for time and does not believe she is able to fulfill her responsibilities to the EC. EC members expressed their regret at her resignation. The EC will recommend to the mayor that Adam, Alternate I, be moved into Rowena's seat (her term expires June 30, 2011) and that Sue, Alternate II, be moved into Adam's seat (his term expires June 30, 2011). Sue's seat expires June 30, 2010. Margaret will check her files to see if anyone recently applied for an EC seat but was not appointed. Also put notice on website and ask Doris Flynn if she is publishing article about other open seats. Daven interested in being EC liaison on Board of Health and will send his resume to Doris. Important issue there is town-wide septic management required by Highlands Regional Master Plan by 12/8/09; expand our existing program rather than waiting for Highlands model.

The EC will also recommend to the mayor that Sheila be re-appointed chair.

**May (revised) and June minutes:** For May, motion by Adam; second by Lisa, unanimous; for June, motion by Michele; second by Caryn, unanimous.

### **Correspondence:**

Wind Symposium at TCNJ: Adam could not attend.

Educational materials on NJ watersheds and stormwater: Margaret will mail copies to Rowena and Dawn for use in their classrooms; also given to Michele.

Township newsletter: Fall EC article—Daven on rain gardens for sump pumps.

Kilowatt Ours: Still awaiting delivery of the CD, after Margaret resent the Township voucher.

Food Inc. film: Sheila will research re: screening or purchase by EC or possible showing at SALT during Foodshed Alliance Tri-County Regional Forum.

Mendham and Madison using 'federal architectural easement' to protect historic buildings/sites: Margaret will research.

Article about smart grid: Caryn to read.

**Business:**

Township website EC section: Margaret and Sue to manage. Minutes and agendas; archive of past articles and mailings (eg. postcard); announcements about cleanups, walks, Tri-County Regional Forums; Trail Brochure. Scott to send content from old site. Margaret to gather it all; Sue to help post.

Highlands assistance for lake management plans: Sue will draft a positive reply to Eileen Swan's letter about Byram being the model town for this; Sheila and Joe Sabatini to sign; cc to Council.

Tri-Community Trail Link grant: ANJEC to send final contract, with revisions (\$3,744 to pay for NYNJTC trail consultant Brenda Holzinger and for maps); professional agreement with Brenda being reviewed. Once contract and agreement are signed, the 3-town project team will meet and begin work.

No Net Loss trees and Community Forestry Plan: Awaiting final CFP from forester Ron Farr, with EC comments/edits.

No Net Loss: Margaret will email to all summary of discussions about how to proceed and advice from Tom Meyer and Jeff Pichet. Also Margaret to find out if E.A. Jansen nursery is on Sussex County contract. Lisa and Sheila to head up this three-year project, including the training requirements under the CFP (for one Township employee and one volunteer).

Margaret will mail EC comments on new BPU vegetation clearing rules.

Trails/streams:

- Grant for trails on Beckmann, Arnell, Owners Maintenance: Margaret will email report on progress re: parking areas, kiosks, trailhead work, DPW involvement.  
Adam's recommended work plan for Arnell—one to two months' work, starting on August 23 from noon to 3 p.m. Estimated 40 person-hours of work that must be done and another 20 person-hours of optional work. Includes: reflagging trail; lopping vegetation to clear trail; chainsawing blowdowns; clearing the trail surface (Margaret to check about whether grant calls for surfacing materials); removing invasives and litter (Margaret will copy the section of the CFP describing this); more sidehilling.
- Letters about seeking joint action with Stanhope, Green, Andover Borough and Township to appeal to our State representatives to find funding for repairing the 'Whitehall washout' section of Sussex Branch: Scott to propose that the Council take the lead on this. The section just south of this is being repaired with grant funding obtained by the EC—DPW finished work and Margaret inspecting with NJDEP Park Superintendent next week. Will discuss with him possible uses of any left-over funding.
- Still waiting for Brian Cowden of Trout Unlimited to identify weeds in Lubbers Run. Margaret will call again.

- Runoff from Bell-McConnell project into Lubbers Run: Margaret trying to get Sussex County Soil Conservation inspector to return and meet her on site; or call NJDEP for runoff into C-1 stream segment or Cliff Lundin, who is on SCSC board. Margaret will take more photos.
- Mansfield Bike Trail r.o.w. on Cutoff r.o.w.: EC comments on the Cutoff 2009 Supplemental Environmental Assessment call for cooperation with Byram on trail issues, although this one not specifically mentioned. Margaret to ask Joe Sabatini about calling John DelColle, NJ Transit Regional Manager, 973-491-8073; and to get full maps to see how extensive the overlap is.
- June 27 cleanup of Sussex Branch Trail between North Shore Road and Whitehall Hill Road. Adam, Sue, Michele, Margaret, Daven,

Joint Recreation/EC projects:

- Brookwood Park Phase I grant application: This application calls for \$1,500 for engineering but the Recreation Committee is asking for \$1,000 for engineering from the town's open space fund. Unnecessary duplication? Margaret has asked Joe. EC liaisons on Open Space Committee should get clarification.
- Sheila to get information on Andover EC grant for detention basins/rain gardens.
- Byram Day 'Communiversality' presentation on trails by Adam: Adam will show us his 'Communicurriculum' at August EC meeting. Also at Byram Day—Lisa to do bulbs again (Margaret to check budget first).

Update of Trail Brochure: Between \$1,000 to \$3,000 held over from 2008 for this project; Margaret to clarify (depends on how some grant matches are handled).

Margaret will email a summary of changes discussed by EC and new information (Adam's GPS work, GIS layers including aerial and possibly topo, water and roads, eliminate blocks/lots).

At August EC meeting: Margaret to bring samples of other trail maps (including Stanhope's); EC to decide on changes and format. To complete by year's end.

PSE&G powerline update: Scott—the intervenors (citizens groups and towns, including Byram) to meet again on July 29. The \$330,000 in escrow provided by PSE&G to the intervenors spent for environmental expert (Steve Balzano, formerly Highlands Council staff), international expert on needs assessment of future energy use, and EMF expert. Will ask our State representatives why they are not speaking out.

Planning Board:

- Pirozzolo application seeking use variance for 2-family house (not legal in Byram): Margaret submitted to Planning Board summary of existing septic information, showing owner submitted plans for one-dwelling septic while also submitting building plans for 2-dwelling house (which Construction Office approved); same number of total bedrooms?
- Awaiting scheduling of draft windmill ordinance and draft Green Master Plan element on PB agenda.

Tri-County Regional Forum: Dawn working on dates at SALT for Foodshed Alliance presentation.

Quarry: Margaret drafted memo about research indicating 300-foot buffer requirement for mountain wetlands behind quarry hole. She will email to all for review; discussion next time.

Sparta hydroelectric project proposal: Received FERC preliminary permit for additional testing. Summary on July EC agenda about possible negative impacts and NJ Sierra Club calling the project a 'Green Scam.'

NJ Greenhouse Gas Reduction grants: Up to \$200,000 per project and \$300,000 total per town. Margaret and Chris working on resubmitting 'Greening Our Village Center,' including previous Village Center economic development grant application and also emphasis on Green businesses/jobs, Green site work and building, Green transportation, Green energy.

Daven and Sheila will look into possible separate application from EC based on listing of possible projects in the grant notice: school-based projects, such as composting or retrofitting for energy conservation or more efficient bus routes; non-vehicular mobility, bike lanes; particularly retrofitting Consolidated School/Civic Center or elementary schools.

Preliminary application due early September. Partnering is preferred—eg. with Highlands Council on Village Center; with schools on EC ideas.

Highlands ERI: Submitted end June; more detailed work, revisions, fact-checking, merging with our existing Natural Resource Inventory to come next year or so.

Other Highlands 'modules': Byram just received Highlands build-out analysis, which will affect COAH obligation if we opt in our Planning Area. Housing potential went down to 10 but jobs potential escalated from c.100 to well over 600; Chris Hellwig to find out why and challenge. This build-out analysis would cut our COAH obligation from c.80 to c.40.

Scott update on Highlands process: No public participation in the process. NJ Highlands Coalition calling for local working teams as best way to insure accuracy in the conformance modules. There is a December 8 deadline for Master Plan compliance. Margaret to ask Chris about EC involvement. Discuss at next EC meeting.

**Adjourn:** 9:50 p.m.