

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES, AUGUST 27, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:47 p.m. Present were Chair Sheila Hall, Lisa Shimamoto, Daven Baez (arrived at 9:10 p.m.), Michele Rehse (arrived at 8:40 p.m.), Caryn Segal, Dawn Boyer, Adam Rosenberg, Council Liaison Scott Olson, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity.

Also present were Justus Von Lengerke and Scott Bandekow from Stag Lake, David Gray, who submitted a resume and letter of interest for the vacant EC seat, and Earl Riley, chair of the Musconetcong Regional Planning Commission.

Representatives of Princeton Hydro (pH) did not attend—had contacted Margaret just before meeting to say could not make it. Margaret will contact. (The EC took no action on their Cranberry Lake proposal.)

July 23 minutes: Motion by Lisa; second by Adam; unanimous.

Correspondence:

Kilowatt Ours: The EC purchased a CD, available for rent; users must read the screening agreement. Dawn will review the on-line teaching materials and screen the CD once school gets underway.

LOI for Trader septic at 55 North Shore Road: Neighbor came in to ask where the engineer got the information about her well shown on the plan (ie. that it is cased), since she knows nothing about the well. Margaret trying to find out where the information came from that this is a 4-bedroom home.

NJDEP notice that scrap yards and auto recyclers now must apply for different permits: And that both must have drainage control plans; mandatory performance standards and stormwater controls on specific implementation schedules; and quarterly monitoring for discharges to surface/ground water. Scott to ask Tom Collins what this means vis a vis Byram's licensing requirements for Raimo and North Jersey.

Business:

Membership: Dave Gray submitted resume/cover letter and attended the meeting to discuss his interest in being a member. Wait til next meeting to make a recommendation to the mayor, as the EC article about the open seat just appeared in the NJ Herald. Sheila knows another interested applicant, who will submit a resume and who has degrees in environmental science and risk management.

The EC will also recommend to the mayor that current alternate members move into regular seats and that Sheila become an alternate (according to her request at this

meeting, as she does not have time for the work of being chair). The EC will decide on a recommendation for the chairmanship at its September meeting. Margaret will alert the mayor about the EC's progress on these issues.

Township website EC section: Margaret and Sue to describe their progress at the September meeting. Minutes and agendas; archive of past articles and mailings (eg. postcard); announcements about cleanups, walks, Tri-County Regional Forums; Trail Brochure.

ANJEC 3-town trail grant: Contract with ANJEC for the grant project funding is being signed by Byram, Hopatcong, ANJEC; agreement with Brenda Holzinger as trail consultant on-hold until the Byram Council receives information about her insurance coverage from the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

No Net Loss trees and Community Forestry Plan: Margaret will send final version of CFP to the whole EC. Margaret will call to make sure our No Net Loss funding is still in place and will send to Sheila and Lisa the information about the No Net Loss program. They are running this project.

Lisa submitted a C.O. Johnson planting plan, based on the original park plan. It includes evergreen barriers between contiguous fields—where nets to achieve the same result would cost \$60,000 to \$90,000. Margaret to mention this benefit to Joe and Adolf and cite the success of the Neil Gylling riparian/fieldside buffer (keeping geese off the fields and protecting the stream). Lisa will add trees within the parking lots, as shown on the original plans. She will recommend certain species, based on the landscaping plans that were generated for Route 206. Lisa will ask Township Engineer Cory Stoner to email her the original park plan, so that she can make two copies of her plan, one to keep in EC files.

Trails/streams: 1. Advocacy letters to surrounding towns asking them to join with Byram in asking our State representatives to find funding to repair the 'Whitehall washout' on the Byram/Andover Borough section of Sussex Branch Trail—Scott will ask the Council to spearhead this project. He will mention it to State Senator Oroho at a September 9 meeting about the PSE&G powerline.

2. Arnell trail work on 8/23: Adam and others walked with Doug Hiscano of Stag Lake to check on boundaries and that the trail is on the Township parcel. Adam will use the survey done for the open space purchase to check boundaries and way-point markers. On the 23rd, volunteers cleared the main access and the northern part of the 'lollipop'. Chopped back a field of barberry. About 1/3 of the trail done; still a lot to do; but wait until boundary issues are resolved. We need to mark the parcel boundary as well as blaze the trail.

3. Bell-McConnell subdivision—no response to Margaret and Chris's letter to Sussex County Soil Conservation about problems with runoff and erosion. The EC recommends speaking to Cliff Lundin, who is SCSC district manager for our area, or to NJDEP, as the runoff is going to the C-1 segment of Lubbers Run.

4. Mansfield Bike Trail partially on Cutoff r.o.w.: Without this trail securely in place, the ANJEC Three-community trail project is a dead issue, since this is the linking

point. Scott is still concerned about lack of certainty-- topographic differences and the fact that NJDOT gave the bike trail grant funding and also owns the r.o.w. here are not adequate assurances. Scott will discuss with Joe Sabatini; add to comments about the Cutoff.

Joint recreation and EC projects: 1. Adam showed his powerpoint about the town trail system that he will present at the Byram Day 'communiversity'—an excellent job, everyone concurred; it will go on the EC website.

Update of Trail Brochure: Scott has the original pdf; it is not in layers—we should start over. Caryn, Daven, Adam, Lisa will work on this. Adam will contact Sussex County GIS officer Dave Kunz to seek assistance. Margaret will send to Adam her file with proposed corrections, including those required by NJ Parks, and with examples of trail brochures that we liked from other towns; she will also get a dollar amount of 2008 funds held over for this purpose and find out if that money must be spent by the end of 2009. If necessary, ask to hold over money from 2009.

Lake management issues: 1. August 21 response from Highlands Executive Director Eileen Swan to Sue's letter about lake management grant funding—they are in touch with Chris Hellwig and beginning to work on lake management guidelines; more information on this and funding after December 8 deadline for Plan Conformance.

2. Earl Riley—Musconetcong developing a lake management plan; they want input from all towns and their EC's. Big issue—water chestnut; 3-4 years ago none in Musconetcong but now about 100 acres on shorelines and in coves. It will find its way to other lakes, such as Cranberry, where boats come in from outside. Herbicides to treat current problem in Musconetcong would cost \$35,000-40,000. Hand-harvesting in shallow water from boats—event on September 19; seeking volunteers; Earl will send more information.

3. Musconetcong River Management group—Michele brought information about recreation on the river.

4. Non-phosphorous ordinance—Cindy Church will keep us posted. Ringwood and West Milford working to adopt their own ordinances before the Highlands Council imposes one.

PSE&G update: Scott's editorial coming up in Daily Record. Municipal interveners met today and to meet with US NJ Senator Menedez and US PA Senator Spector and NJ Conservation Foundation. Comments are due to NJBPU by September 15; hearing dates October 19-23 in Newark. Comments on PSE&G LOI for NJ wetlands permits due by early October; EC should review. Opponents getting BPU officials out to affected towns and Delaware Water Gap.

Planning Board items: Pirozzolo—Caryn reports the Planning Board is seeking more information concerning septic approvals (approved for a single-family 4-bedroom house, whereas Pirozzolo is asking approval for this being 2-family, 6-bedroom).

The Green Building Master Plan element and our draft wind power ordinance on hold until Highlands modules are done.

Tri-County Regional Forum: Dawn will proposed October 18, Sunday, from noon to 2, for Foodshed Alliance presentation, with SALT to provide coffee and attendees able to order from menu; advertise as limited seating and give SALT an estimate of 35.

Quarry: Margaret drafted comments for next relicensing hearing about the size of buffers required around the wetlands—Highlands mapping show these wetlands as tributary of the C-1 segment of Lubbers Run, thus requiring a 300-foot buffer. Margaret will check this information with Bob Canace, hydrogeologist who has helped on issues in the past.

Sparta hydroelectric project: Bad drilling results concerning bedrock; the project is dead.

NJ Greenhouse Gas Reduction grants: ‘Greening Our Village Center’ grant pre-application submitted, with help from Heyer, Gruel to propose methodology for estimating greenhouse gas reductions. Seeking \$150,000. Pre-applications to be reviewed and selected projects go onto full application.

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

Sue and Adam reviewed modules to see where EC might participate. ECers should attend upcoming Council/Planning Board meetings about modules and Byram’s decision whether to ‘opt-in’ its Planning Area (the 206 commercial district) in addition to mandatory conformance in the rest of the town (Preservation Area).

Open Space Plan update—possibly Highlands funding available.

Open to public: Earl asked about stewardship of Byram’s open space parcels and was told a Forest Stewardship Plan for Beckmann-Arnell-Owners Maintenance has been adopted.

Scott provided an update on the 206 project: The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority funded the project in March; went to bid August 24; bids to be opened October 27. Listed as a \$34.3 million project. Construction to start in spring.

Adjourn: 9:55 p.m. Motion by Daven; second by Lisa; unanimous.