

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 p.m. Present were Chair Sheila Hall, Daven Baez , Michelle Rehse, Caryn Segal, Adam Rosenberg, Dawn Boyer (arrived at 9:30 p.m.), Council Liaison Scott Olson, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity.

Also present were Harvey Roseff and Jennifer Maund, who both have submitted resumes seeking appointment to the open seats on the Environmental Commission.

August minutes: Motion by Daven; second by Caryn; unanimous.

Membership: The EC first discussed the open seats, the applicants for those seats, and the chairmanship.

Harvey Roseff and Jennifer Maund introduced themselves and explained their interest in serving on the Commission. (Copies of their resumes are attached to these minutes, as is the resume of Dave Gray, who attended the August meeting as an interested member.)

The Council has requested that a poster be displayed at Byram Day (September 26) advertising the open seats on several boards, including the EC. The EC, however, agreed to decide tonight on a recommendation for its two open seats, as well as a recommendation that the current two alternates be moved into regular seats and the new members be appointed as alternates. One reason for this recommendation is that current alternate Sue Wise is interested in serving as a co-chair but cannot do so as an alternate.

Margaret spoke as a resident to ask Harvey Roseff if his active advocacy on issues surrounding Westby Farm would adversely affect his ability to participate on the EC, which adopts a collaborative approach to working on projects and issues in the town and tries to function in partnership with other boards, including the Township Council and Planning Board. Harvey did not think this would be an obstacle and described his Westby advocacy as seeking a proper process more than opposing activities there. Scott also spoke up on this issue, with concerns similar to Margaret's and noting that the EC's relationship to the Council and Planning Board is as an advisory committee.

Harvey and Jennifer stayed for the remainder of the meeting but offered to leave just before the EC discussed who it would recommend for membership, at the end of the meeting.

Open to the public: Richard and Regina Lombardo of 9 Manu Trail on Johnson Lake sought information about the Hudson Greenway project and the plans for the lake. They received a notice about lowering the lake and repairing the dam but had little information about the overall project. The lowering has exposed many tree stumps and some refuse on the lake bottom; lake weeds have been increasing in recent years. Margaret will find out if the Greenway plan includes a lake management plan, a cleanup, weed control, and whether residents who have been using the lakeshore parcel that belongs to the Kellogg corporation can continue to do so. NJ Conservation Foundation (NJCF) is to manage the

parcel containing the lake, except for the very southern end with the dam, which the Township will own.

The Lombardos also described heavy siltation and stormwater problems at the end of Hunters Lane, where a drainage easement takes all the stormwater from this neighborhood and sends it into the lake. Margaret will alert NJCF.

Margaret will fax to the Lombardos (973-584-4221) the page from the Township's Natural Resources Inventory that summarizes the MKY/Mykroy (ceramics factory) cleanup of contamination at the northern end of Johnson Lake (and associated dumping site at Wolf Lake). She will also keep the Lombardos informed about proposals for trails along the lake, almost certainly on the western shore.

Correspondence: Margaret explained the successes and limitations of hydroraking to control weeds, based on her experiences on the Cranberry Lake management work.

Business:

Township website EC section: Sue put up the EC content; members should visit the site and make any recommendations. She will add Margaret's work phone as the EC contact. Margaret will supply to Sue the dates of the articles that are on-site and also provide pdf's of articles/flyers so that they are shown in their full graphic effect. Also, she will add the Foodshed Alliance 10/18 event at SALT to the New & Noteworthy list on the Township website, with a link to the EC site.

ANJEC 3-town trail grant: Brenda's insurance coverage from NYNJTC still under review. Kick-off meeting on October 7, 7:30 at our town hall, with ANJEC present.

No Net Loss trees and Community Forestry Plan: Margaret still gathering information about the impact on Township budgets/personnel of the CFP and NNL. Sheila will draft a letter of support from the EC and attend the Council meeting where this is discussed: motion to do this by Adam; second by Caryn; unanimous. Scott—try for an October agenda. Margaret to send Sheila some info for the letter (including that a line of trees could replace the proposed \$60,000-90,000 nets between fields at C.O. Johnson Park). The CFP grant deadline is 10/12 (\$3000 to pay forester Ron Farr to write the CFP).

Lisa delivered revised C.O. Johnson planting plan.

Trails/streams: 1. Advocacy letters sent from our Council to surrounding towns asking them to join in asking our State representatives to find funding to repair the 'Whitehall washout' on the Sussex Branch Trail.

2. Arnell trail work: still working on trail route that uses the parcel well but accommodates issues voiced by Stag Lake group. Adam rewalked the parcel, finding that the trails are currently proposed by us are well within Township boundaries and that some Stag Lake postings are over onto the Arnell parcel. Doug Hiscano has flagged a proposed route; Brenda and Adam will go out to check. Adam noted that Doug is concerned about protecting the wetlands and also wants to avoid ATV or hiker intrusions on Stag Lake woods roads. Daven said that the decision should be made on the basis of

having a good trail route that uses this 44-acre publicly-funded open space parcel. Scott suggested blocking off any road connections leading from Arnell to Stag Lake.

How to remove invasives? Stilt grass easy to pull out; otherwise, put food coloring in Roundup and paint onto cut roots.

3. Bell-McConnell subdivision—SC Soil Conservation visited site with Chris Hellwig and Joe Sabatini and again declared no violations. Chris looking into status of the subdivision project.

4. Mansfield Bike Trail partially on Cutoff r.o.w.: Margaret again seeking proof of easement agreement with NJDOT or of historic Mansfield r.o.w.

5. Complaint about Jefferson-Glen trail head needing pruning: Sheila thinks it's stilt grass; she will check.

Joint recreation and EC projects: Adam's Byram Day powerpoint about the town trail system will go on the EC section of the Township website. Ask Janet about 20 minutes to show The Story of Stuff? ECers scheduled to be at EC booth during Byram Day; Margaret will provide hand-outs for our table.

Update of Trail Brochure: We will use the money held over from our 2008 budget to reprint 500 Trail Guides. The updated/revised Guide will not be available for a while—wait til some or all new trails on Beckmann, Arnell, Owners Maintenance, Vetter, Hudson Greenway are ready for inclusion.

Adam, Caryn Daven, Michelle taking charge of this project. Caryn can print proofs of drafts as we go along.

Harvey Roseff suggested getting a good color printer and printing them in-house as needed (*NOTE: Chris is looking into this*).

Scott submitted a map from the Stanhope ERI, which he worked on, using GIS layers to show various features while maintaining readability. Aerial base maps are too confusing. The Mendham trail map has topographic lines but is very readable. Possibility of laminating or printing on 'vellum' plasticized paper to be waterproof.

The EC will ask to hold over 2009 EC budget money to work on this in 2010.

Lake management issues: The Council approved the submission of the Princeton Hydro grant application for Cranberry Lake (\$79,000 plus c.\$7,000 in-kind local match). Focus will be on phosphorus. Daven expects a non-phosphorus local ordinance to be voted on at the October Board of Health meeting.

PSE&G update: Public comment ended 9/15. NJDEP declared PSE&G wetlands application incomplete (PSE&G only submitted for wetlands within the r.o.w. and not those affected by the access roads, new substation, etc.); PSE&G must resubmit—comments on this c. November. Also PSE&G must provide EIS for Water Gap park—US Park Service review to take c.2 years. Attorney General's Office will participate in Nov. 16 NJBPU hearings.

Several NJBPU Commissioners not in favor of such projects, especially when these transmission projects connect with coal plants; Governor is for it, as our State representatives.

PSE&G plans to shut down this line while putting in the new one, raising a question about PSE&G's claims of the dangers of imminent brown/black-outs if this project is not approved.

PSE&G conceded to moving the lines near the Fredon School, thus seeming to acknowledge health issue with EMFs.

Planning Board items: Paul Gleitz has returned to Byram as the consulting planner from Heyer, Gruel & Assoc. Heather Zieziula was laid off. Schedule of upcoming Council/Planning Board meetings to discuss Highlands modules and affordable housing to be emailed by Margaret.

Tri-County Regional Forum: Dawn has date of Sunday, October 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SALT for the Foodshed Alliance presentation. Limit of 35 attendees. SALT will provide coffee; the EC voted to spend up to \$175 on local farm foods to be purchased by Foodshed Alliance for the meeting.

Scott will design a flyer, with logos from SALT and information from Foodshed. To mail/distribute by 10/4.

Quarry: Margaret asking advice from ANJEC Highlands specialist Dave Peifer about the quarry wetlands being tributary to the C-1 Lubbers Run segment—which would require 300' buffers.

Sustainable New Jersey: EC to recommend creation of a Green Team, the first mandatory step toward municipal certification under this program. Some towns just designate the EC as the Green Team; better if there is a broader spectrum of stakeholders. Margaret will get information and distribute to EC about what other towns are doing. Plan for first Green Team meeting on Earth Day 2009.

Byram's Smart Growth Plan provides a model of this type of stakeholder-based 'collaborative' planning.

Margaret will email information and link to Sustainable NJ website. She was also contacted by the president of the Cranford Green Team, describing how they started and got a range of members. (NOTE: She is Mary Riley, 908-967-6044 and is also on a Sustainable NJ committee to work on next phases of the program. Lots of useful information.)

Hudson Greenway and Rosendale fields: Chris and Margaret submitted summary of environmental/Highlands features to Township engineer to help prepare ballfield plan. Margaret got assistance from ANJEC Highlands expert Dave Peifer.

Discussion on membership: Harvey Roseff and Jennifer Maund did not stay for this discussion.

Sheila will remain in her regular seat but does not wish to be chair. The EC will recommend to the mayor that current alternates Sue and Adam be moved into the two open regular seats.

After discussion of the credentials and possible contributions of the three applicants—Dave Rush, Harvey Roseff, Jennifer Maund—the EC voted to recommend to

the mayor that Dave and Jennifer be appointed to the alternate seats. Their credentials and professional experience will be very useful for the Commission.

Motion to recommend Dave's appointment: motion by Daven; second by Caryn; unanimous. Motion to recommend Jennifer's appointment: motion by Daven; second by Dawn; unanimous.

Dawn agreed to consider serving as co-chair with Sue. They will discuss this and the Commission will review at its October meeting, to vote on sending a recommendation to the mayor.

Adjourn: 11:35 p.m. Motion by Daven; second by Caryn; unanimous.