

## BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES, DECEMBER 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Co-chair Sue Wise, Co-chair Dawn Boyer, new members David Gray and Jennifer Kreusch, Council Liaison Scott Olson, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity.

**November minutes:** Motion by Dawn; second by Sue; unanimous.

### **Correspondence:**

Correspondence section of agenda: Future correspondence not requiring action will not be on the agenda but either forwarded via email or provided in a 'read folder.'

ANJEC membership for 2010: Margaret will submit a membership application for the seven regular and two alternate members at a cost of \$280 + \$40. (Also the membership for Foodshed Alliance and N.J. Environmental Lobby.)

2009 accomplishments for the Township calendar: Margaret will add the screening of Kilowatt Ours to the list already submitted.

Committee chairs super-committee: Township Manager will convene a committee of the chairs of all committees to coordinate projects, capital spending proposals, and long-term budgetary obligations.

ANJEC Smart Growth grants: Margaret will ask about applying to prepare a lake management plan for Lackawanna and adopting a non-phosphorus ordinance. Another possibility is preparing an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan, which would clarify the uses of the local open space trust fund—as a new chapter in the Master Plan?

### **Business:**

Membership and chairs: Introduction of new Co-chairs Sue Wise and Dawn Boyer and new Alternate members David Gray and Jennifer Kreusch. Sue ran the meeting; she and Dawn will split the duties of the chair.

Highlands Applicability Determination for Cutoff: Scott informed the EC that the deadline for comments is extended at least until January 13. NJ Transit is redoing the plan; the original HAD only addressed the actual right-of-way and not potential impacts farther afield, failing to note for instance two C-1 stream impacts. . Scott and Kate Millsaps of the NJ Highlands Coalition walked part of the r.o.w.; will hike the rest and ECers are invited. Scott will email the plan and call Jen, Sue, Dave for possible walk on January 3 at 11 a.m.

ANJEC grant for 3-town trail link: On-schedule. The Project Team is seeking a 'license agreement' for a trail route in Hopatcong and is determining whether trail links in Stanhope are on public or private land.

No Net Loss tree and Community Forestry Plan: Margaret will make sure the NNL grant funding for Byram is still available. Margaret reading the CFP to propose revisions in response to Joe/Adolf objections and discuss with Jen and later the EC. Scott reports that the Council is rescinding an ordinance that obligates the town to cut down hazardous trees on private property.

Trails/streams:

- Grant for three open space parcels. Forester Ron Farr to mark boundaries of Arnell (with EC help if he calls for it) and then EC will schedule hike with Stag Lake property owners to decide on trail route.
- Sussex Branch 5-town advocacy effort for repairing 'Whitehall Washout' on Sussex Branch—Margaret to check on status of this campaign.
- Sussex Branch repairs between Whitehall and North Shore Road—Margaret to get SLAP for spring cleanup.
- Mansfield Trail on Cutoff r.o.w.—Joe Sabatini is reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding found by Margaret that seems to secure the Mansfield Bike Trail's location on the Cutoff r.o.w.
- EC to join NY-NJ Trail Conference and TC to adopt Byram Trails—our volunteers then covered under TC insurance. Membership is \$50. Should the Open Space and Recreation Committees also join?

Joint Recreation and EC projects:

- Brookwood Park grant application—Margaret revised for 2010 submission. Potential problems with Safe Drinking Water Act and impact of park development on the East Brookwood water company well, including possible Township liability. Grant to be submitted but further research needed.
- Andover EC's grant to plant detention basins—Sheila to follow up.

Joe Sabatini calling joint EC-OS-Recreation meeting: Meeting of the chairs of these committees. Architectural Review Committee has asked if their chair should be included. For discussions of grants, capital projects, joint projects, long-term impacts on Township budgets and staff of these grants and projects, and for better coordination and participation of all committees.

Margaret will supply her spreadsheet of grants to Dawn and Sue before the meeting. Issues to include how local open space funding should be used (for land preservation and/or recreational development, for maintenance of land and facilities), process of applying for and managing grants, volunteer participation—for the EC, taking care that EC members aren't over-committed. EC can take to the meeting the information about organic management of playing fields described by Tony Cerbo of Cerbo Nurseries.

Update of trail brochure: Sue will arrange laser printing at Trukmann's, \$230 for 100 copies; Margaret to email the files to them. Motion by Caryn; second by Dawn; unanimous.

PSE&G powerline update: Intervenor towns being asked by PSE&G and BPU to negotiate. Byram is preparing a possible list of remediations.

Planning Board issues:

- Osgood application on Lake Drive: the resolution prepared to reflect the Planning Board's decision does not mention a lakeside buffer planting requirement. Caryn will see that this is rectified before the PB accepts the resolution.

Tri-County Regional Forum: The EC will sponsor a screening of the film 'Food, Inc.'—a Wednesday in late February or early March, preferably March 3. Scott will contact the Sparta Theatre (capacity is 100 and rental fee is \$300); Margaret will clear with Joe Sabatini putting the entire cost in our budget, to be offset by requested \$5 donations. Sue has contacted Swank Media for costs and dates—it's \$200 plus \$21 shipping/handling.

PSE&G powerline: BPU 5-day hearings ended 11/23; intervenors' arguments were well made. BPU decision due January 15.

Quarry: 2010 relicensing hearing in January or February. Sheila and Margaret drafted EC comments; Margaret reviewed the last several year's EC comments. Margaret to revise the 2010 comments based on discussion tonight; EC members will attend the Council meeting to present at the quarry hearing.

Sustainable Jersey: Michelle looking into Green Team, for EC to make recommendations to Council. Table until January meeting.

**Adjourn:** 8:55 p.m. Motion by Dawn; second by Caryn; unanimous.