

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES, OCTOBER 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Chair John Boyer, Jim Reinhold, James Myers, Catherine Varian, and Donna Koenig.

Minutes: The September minutes were approved: motion by Jim, second by James

Correspondence and updates:

- Steep slope ordinance: EC memo to Zoning Officer recommending that prohibitions on disturbing sensitive features be extended to all circumstances, not only when permits or approvals are sought from the Township. No response; EC decided to wait until Zoning Officer has time to consider.
- Ongoing: Soil ordinance: Subcommittee of John, Dave to report on the draft ordinance to be submitted to Planning Board and Council
- Ongoing: Community Forestry Management Plan: Review the 5 year (2015 – 2019) management plan, put together by Farr Forestry Services, LLC, so we keep up to date with programs and requirements that will maintain Byram's status with the DEP's NJ State Forestry Services.
- Email from Nicole at the Stanhope Environmental Commission. Inquiring about trail maintenance projects for Lenape Valley Go Green Club students who need service project hours.

Business:

- Membership: Looking to fill open seats (one regular and two alternate) on the EC. Cathy knows of someone who might be interested.
- Updating Sussex County's Open Space and Recreation Plan: 10/22/15 Municipal Outreach Meeting held in Byram Township to begin the process of updating of Sussex County's 2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Barbara Davis of the Land Conservancy of NJ led the discussion and collected suggestions and ideas from various Byram committees (Open Space, Rec, EC, Council). Trail connectivity and protecting water quality were the main issues. Grant \$ William Penn and Musconetcong Watershed.
- Annual notice of 2016 meeting dates: Notice of meeting dates from Jan. 2016 – Jan. 2017 need to be approved.
- Help Keep our Lanes and Streams Clean! Postcard: Cathy working on new ideas/design.

Planning Board:

- Applications:
 - 1) Tom Alfsen, 44 Birch Parkway, Lake Mohawk, Application Z12-2015, Block 308 Lot 1823, 44 Birch Parkway. EC comments sent to Planning Board 10/22/15:
 - *Rear Yard Setback 27.8' (5.3' less than existing). A minimum setback of 50' required for waterfront. Does applicant need NJDEP approval/permit regarding flood hazard area?
 - *Lake buffer recommended (for bank stability and water quality): 10' wide vegetative buffer (native plants, including trees, shrubs, perennials) along at least 80% of water's edge
 - *EC is assuming no tree removal necessary

2) EC had no comments on Hopatcong's Bear Pond Dam application.

Trails:

- Brookwood Park: On hold
- Johnson Lake: looking to schedule a November date
- *Ongoing*: Status of campaign for Cutoff trail.
- Blazes with QR code to on-line Trails Brochure, to add to trailhead sign posts
- 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail
- Ideas on how to educate Byram about nearby parks and trails – put photos up on website, organize hiking days,

Forestry:

- No Net Loss tree planting grant application: Donna to find out if less \$/less trees are possible for NNL grant. Still working out issues with Phase I grant for Jones Lane plantings.
- Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager.
- Planting of detention basins: At Township Manager's request, Margaret obtained proposal from Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program to design planting plans for 4 basins: \$1,200 (Jeremiah Bergstrom, 609-433-0582 ©; jbergstrom@envsci.rutgers.edu). *Manager suggested some NNL trees might be used at these sites (large weedy basin at C.O. Johnson Park, one at Marra Lane and one at Partridge Run, plus one at Ascot Lane, which is actually split into two parts on either side of entrance road).*

Reports from committees:

- Musconetcong River: no update
- Open Space Committee: no update
- Council: no update

Adjourn: 9:35