

**Environmental Commission meeting Minutes
February 22, 2024 @ 7:30pm**

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|---------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Dana Flynn | Chairperson | X |
| Eric Duch | Vice Chairperson | X |
| Lisa Shimamoto | Member | X |
| Peter Dlugos | Member | X |
| James Myers | Member | X |
| Christine Aboulhosn | Member | X |
| | Member | |
| | Alternate 1 | |
| | Alternate 2 | |
| Andrew McElroy | Planning Board Liaison | Absent |
| Harvey Roseff | Council Liaison | Absent |
| Fran Frederick | Secretary | X |

Called Meeting to Order at 7:34pm.

Public Participation – Laura Szwak from ANJEC was in attendance. She is an ANJEC board member and circulates to EC meetings in the area. She is looking for feedback on how ANJEC can better serve communities.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Adequate notice of this meeting has been published specifying the time and access information in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting has also been electronically sent to the newspapers and uploaded to Byram’s website, not less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. In addition, a copy of this notice is on file in the office of the Environmental Commission Secretary.

Review of Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2024

Motion was made by Lisa Shimamoto to accept. Peter Dlugos seconded.

Planning Board Applications

- [Z05-2024-Block 142 Lot 102, 3 Opa Pass, Dennis Fornarucci](#)
The owner should complete the existing swale according to the plans previously approved by the Township Engineer, including landscaping. How is runoff being handled from the addition/where will it flow? Is the detention swale sized accordingly or is expansion needed for the additional runoff?
- [Z04-2024-Block 342.02 Lot 23, 497 Stanhope Road, Turcios](#)
Where is the runoff going? The current angle/direction of the added roof points directly at the neighboring structure.
- [Z27-2023-11.30.2023 Nicco Brancaccio](#)
No EC comments.

Committee Reports

- MRMC – Last meeting, February 20; next meeting April 16.
 - Peter shared that Alan Hunt was leaving MWA for the National Park Service and is no longer with MRMC.
 - Hosting native plant sale on May 11th (Asbury location)
 - The MWA recreation committee is having a camping/rafting event in June. Peter is a member.
 - They voted to have the Ramapo Culture & Land Foundation as voting member of MRMC.
 - Lubbers Run identified as a pollution hotspot. Is septic the culprit? Dana suggested requesting more information/data from MWA regarding Lubbers Run. Peter to reach out to MWA.
- Recreation – Last meeting, meeting February 13; next meeting March 12
 - No updates/no EC attendance at last meeting.
- Open Space – Last meeting, February 12; next meeting April 8th.
 - Peter attended as a member of the public and shared that Joe Sabatini discussed 2024 trails grant for walking trails at CO Johnson Park. Money from the county wouldn't cover all expenses so they will be seeking other funding. No updates on the Trails Committee. At the meeting, Joe Sabatini noted that the Council needs to provide more guidance to all committees. Open Space focus is currently on CO Johnson Park.
 - Laura (ANJEC) shared that the NY trails conference taught Mt Olive how to make trails and is a good resource for trails.
- Council – Last meeting, February 20; next meeting March 5.
 - Eric - the council voted to spend \$1 million for improvements to CO Johnson Field 8. No other updates.

New Business

- MWA Flow Together Workshops – Phase 2
 - Peter attended one of the workshops. They discussed volunteer groups to conduct river plantings to aid in pollution absorption.
 - Convert basins to bio swales?
Peter shared some E. coli that was found during water testing. This prompted a discussion about well testing; Peter offered to research well testing mandates. Initiated some discussion about the Board of Health requiring all homes have their septic tanks pumped on a regular basis.
- Arbor Day planning – Time TBD once Opening Day start time announced.
- 2024 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant
 - Laura confirmed we have a deadline of April 24th.
 - Peter made a motion that EC should apply for the ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant to update the Byram Trails Map. James seconded.
 - Laura noted that NY/NJ Trail Conference and the NJ Land Conservancy also do trail maps.
 - Could Open Space fund some of the map costs?
- 2024 Events
 - Avian Wildlife Center Presentation
 - Eric shared handouts from AWC about their presentations. He feels a presentation in a school auditorium is best given the space needed. Dana noted that the EC may need to partner with the PTA to have it at the school and rules

need to be checked. EC member suggested pairing with an outdoor activity – birding or walking. Dana noted that it was unlikely they would allow live birds in the municipal building and Eric noted that it might not provide enough space.

- Eric - AWC noted that fall is a better time for a presentation. Lisa/James suggested October.
- National Trails Day
 - To be held in June. Details TBD.
- Hikes/educational walks
 - TBD.
- Waterloo History Day
 - To be held in June. Need BTHS or Harvey’s input to determine participation.
- 50th Anniversary of the EC – October
 - TBD. AWC presentation could be part of this.

Old Business

- EC water bottles – TBD upon full budget in April.
- Mission Statement – Lisa has been working on the mission statement and will provide to Fran to distribute to the group.
- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – Currently doing testing on local wells in East Brookwood.

Training- Peter attended NJFA Webinar and forwarded certificate to Fran/Dana.

Membership

- Alternate I and II positions are currently vacant.

Budget – Temporary balance is \$700.

- 2024 Purchases:
 - ANJEC renewal, water bottles, AWC presentation

Other

Next Meeting to be held March 28, 2024, in-person.

Motion to Adjourn Motion by Dana. Peter seconded.