



**Environmental Commission Minutes**  
**July 24, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.**

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**Roll Call** – Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members	July 24, 2025 Meeting
Peter Dlugos – Chair	X
Eric Duch - Co-Chair	X
Dana Flynn	X
Christine Aboulhosn	X
James Myers	-
Lisa Shimamoto	-
Randy Gutwein	X
Andrew McElroy – PB Liaison	X
Harvey Roseff – Council Liaison	-
Elaine Evers – Secretary	X

**Public Participation** – Residents Abbie Adams and Pat Moschella in attendance. Nicole Member, Stanhope EC Chair, was also in attendance.

**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 no 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 June 2025 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to accept minutes made by Christine and seconded by Randy, and motion unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports**

- MPMC – Last meeting June 17; next meeting August 19  
Randy reported on a MWA webinar on using landscaping to reduce runoff
- Open Space – Last meeting June 9; next meeting August 11  
Peter reported that Town Council is set on 8/12 to hear a presentation and then vote on the proposed controlled burn in Tamarack Park to control the invasive barberry.
- Council – Last meeting July 15; next meeting August 12  
Nothing to report.

**New Business**

- Recommendation to Town Council on Riparian Buffer Ordinance  
The EC reviewed the current ordinance(s) and two possible suggested revisions that Peter created based on the EC’s discussions and his own research into what other municipalities have done. Andrew commented that the second paragraph of the second proposed ordinance would likely not be adopted by the TC as stated. Peter agreed to revise in view of this observation. It was suggested as a next step to share the document with Township Manager and Council for their comments.

- Collaboration with Stanhope EC and MWA on water quality projects  
There was discussion and enumeration of possible sites in Stanhope and Byram for green infrastructure projects involving the Musconetcong and its tributaries. Peter will meet with Nicole Member to scout these sites, as well as check in with the Township Manager. Peter also announced that the WMA is partnering with NJ Resources to schedule a river cleanup that would include as many as 30 volunteers sometime in September.
- Next Steps with Trails, Trail Map and Invasives  
Discussion of next steps to prepare the new digital trail map with the public. Who owns the current QR code on some of the trailheads? Can it be redirected to the URL for the digital map? Peter will investigate further with the Township Manager.
- Contributions from Public  
Abbie Adams asked about the status of the contaminated soil on Hemlock Rd. and Harborview Beach parking lot in Forest Lakes. Discussion ensued about both remediation and prevention. Peter shared that the DEP does not do cleanups; their focus is on prosecuting offenders and forcing them to pay for the cleanups. Abbie suggested the trail cams on critical roads (e.g., Rt. 206) might be used to record trucks hauling fill. Peter offered that they would also be needed on roads, as trucks enter Byram from multiple routes. Forest Lakes could elect to have them within their community. Abbie also shared her experience in Maine with lake management and water quality improvements, which could prove very useful for the Byram Lakes.
- Byram Fest Planning  
EC is planning poster displays on invasive and native plant species. It was suggested that live samples of each would be very useful. Peter will collect invasives and Dana will consult with Plant Detectives in Chester on possibly loaning display native plants.
- Hudson Farm Fall Charity Hike  
Peter indicated that he is aiming to have an EC table at this event; he has reached out to the coordinator and is awaiting response.
- Planning for other possible Fall events: Zero Waste event? Raptor demo? Invasives ID walks?  
Peter announced that Debbie would like to have a 10/25 Fall Festival, possibly at the municipal complex and EC volunteers are requested. Dana confirmed that Simple Bare Necessities will be giving a talk; date is TBD.

### **Planning Board Applications**

- Leah Lowrie [Z02-2025 Block 260 Lot 42.01, 79 Tamarack Road, Leah Lowrie](#)  
EC comment: No additional comments at this time.
- Wawa (for EV chargers) [SP4-2025, Block 34 Lot 15, 75 Route 206 \(Wawa\)](#)  
Andrew advised that EC comments should focus on environmental concerns.  
EC comment: The application for the EV charging stations seems to be incomplete. The charging station's infrastructure as currently presented appears to produce a potentially unsafe environment for the public and workers. The submitted application does not include the following information:  
1. Minimum Approach Distances (MAD) for electrical panels as required by OSHA, for the power distribution panels and the transformer pad. The fencing around the electrical distribution equipment should take MAD into account so that any worker can safely approach and work on the equipment. The plot plan only shows the distance from the rear of the panels to the fence line.  
2. Appropriate ARC Flash Warning Labels for panels should be denoted on equipment as a warning to limiting access to qualified personnel with proper PPE per NEC.  
3. Although fencing is provided around the electrical equipment but by what means will it be secured? This should not be an area accessible to the public nor unqualified or trained personnel. Most buildings have a mechanical room with limited access but this equipment is outdoors.

## **Old Business**

- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – no updates
- Lake Management Plan – no updates
- “Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive – no updates
- Controlled burn in Tamarack Park – see above
- Proposed dates for EC-BTHS hike at Waterloo (with Canal Society) and Cranberry/Branch Trail are 9/14/2025 and 9/21/2025.
- Municipal Invasive Species Management Plan (consistent with existing 10-yr. Forestry Management Plan and Lakes and Watersheds Plan – no updates
- EC member spotlights on social media – no updates
- EC newsletter for expanded outreach – no updates
- EC budget planning – resolution(s) requested
  - 10 x 10 Sun Shade (\$200)
  - Weed Wrenches (2? \$75-350 each)
  - Large Print Maps for trail kiosks
  - Display Posters for Invasives/Native Plants Education (Byram Fest and beyond)
  - EC vision poster?
  - Honorarium for Zero Waste Speaker (~\$200?)
  - Boot brushes for Invasives volunteers? (\$7)
  - T-shirts for Trail Keepers?
- Peter commented since accounting department starts its year-end process early, the EC should plan to approve all purchases and other expenses by September meeting.

## **Training** – NJUCF CEUs count 5 (Dana 1.5; Peter 6.5)

Elaine noted that certificates are still needed to verify the count.

## **Membership** – Alternate II position is vacant.

**Budget** – \$3,025 was reported as remaining, but this was an error (this figure includes staffing); \$2,600 was the original budget allocation and approximately \$1,600 remains.

## **Next Meeting** – scheduled August 28, 2025.

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Dana, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.