



## Environmental Commission Minutes

### August 28, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

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#### Roll Call

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

**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.

**Public Participation and Open Forum** – Kate Joslin was in attendance. Kate asked about how projects to improve or remediate stormwater retention basins can be initiated. As a resident of West Brookwood, she is concerned about the municipal-owned lots in the neighborhood that are overgrown and not functioning as intended.

**Review of July 2025 Meeting Minutes** – Corrections: Lisa not in attendance and Andrew attended meeting. July minutes to be adjusted accordingly.

#### Committee Reports

- MRMC – Last meeting August 19; next meeting October 21 – Randy reported Sarah Bursky has been named as new River Manager and the MWA is facing possible funding cuts.
- Open Space – Last meeting August 11; next meeting September 8 – Discussion focused on the prescribed burn application that was approved by Town Council the following evening.
- Council – Last meeting August 12; next meeting September 2 – Harvey shared that the Field 8 Project in COJ has been completed.
- Byram Trail Keepers – Initial kickoff meetup was held at Cranberry Overlook on August 17, and trail maintainers are signing up.

#### New Business

- Byram Fest Debrief and Reimbursement for Additional Expenses – Peter was pleased with the Byram Fest turnout, the displays, the conversations with residents that ensued. Still, doubts were expressed that comparatively “heavy” EC topics are a good fit for this festive day. He suggested that for the next Byram Fest, EC might consider hosting a kids’ activity at a designated time and also provide a short-guided hike that would depart from COJ at a designated time.
- Review of 2025 EC Annual Goals and Planning Calendar – Focus was on the planning calendar, and discussion of needed events with TBD dates.

- Planning for upcoming Fall events – see above.
- EC Budget Planning – Peter requested two resolutions, both of which were made and unanimously approved:
  - A resolution to reimburse Dana Flynn for Byram Fest native plant expenses, not to exceed \$100.
  - A resolution to spend \$1200 on the following items, with upward adjustments made later, if warranted:
    - \$300 for honorarium and materials for Zero Waste workshop presented by Simple Bare Necessities
    - \$400 for T-shirts for Byram Trail Keepers' volunteer trail maintainers
    - \$200 for printing of large trail maps at trailhead kiosks
    - \$250 for weed wrench for large invasive plant removal
    - \$50.00 for root-cutting shovel

**Planning Board Applications** – None this month

### **Old Business**

- Riparian Buffer Ordinance – Peter joined the Town Council at the TC meeting on 8/12 for a discussion of the draft revised ordinances that the EC recommended be forwarded for such discussion. The outcome was for the TC to seek expert opinion on whether and how the ordinances should be changed.
- Collaboration with Stanhope EC and MWA on Water Quality Project – Peter described his positive meeting with the West Brookwood Association board on a proposed project to improve river water quality and fish habitat at Drain Way by removing the bridge abutments and rock dams, and narrowing the river, which has been unnaturally widened and made shallower in recent years. He will follow up with conversations with association members who expressed minor concerns.
- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – Lisa announced that next CAG meeting will be Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.
- Lake Management Plan – no updates
- “Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive – no updates
- EC member spotlights on social media – no updates
- EC newsletter for expanded outreach – no updates

**Training** – NJUCF CEUs count 8 (Dane 1.5; Peter 6.5)

**Membership** – Alternate II position is vacant

**Budget** – Approximately \$1,500 remaining

**Next Meeting** – Scheduled September 25

**Motion to Adjourn** made by Lisa, seconded by Randy; meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.