

BYRAM TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE HEAD MEETING - JANUARY 22, 2019

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Alex Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6.

ATTENDANCE:

Town Council Members: Mayor Rubenstein, Deputy Mayor Kash, Councilman Roseff and Councilman Olson
ARC-John Morytko

Recreation Committee – Len Bicher (late 7:40 pm)

Planning Board – George Shivas

Open Space – Ray Bonker

Environmental Commission – Michelle Rehse

Township Manager Joe Sabatini and Municipal Clerk Doris Flynn

Everyone introduced themselves and identified what committees they represented and the role that committee plays in the Township.

Ray Bonker – Ray talked about the changes in focus of the open space committee and the impact to the other committees. The focus has changed from acquisition to maintenance. The OS is a committee of representatives of other committees. We just received an \$80,000 grant to focus on updating the open space and recreation plan, creating a trails master plan and updating mapping. The OS plan must be renewed by 2019 to continue to receive planning incentive grant money, and Ray stated that we are taking this opportunity to do more than that. The OS will own trails going forward with regard to funding, maintenance and construction. The OS committee will also own the capital projects for parks. Greener By Design (GBD) will develop a press release which will be released in the next few weeks. Ray stated that GBD will be meeting with all the committees in the next month or two and the committees should start thinking about items to address when they have this meeting.

Ray stated that while GBD is working on this plan over the next two years, the OS will be in charge of trails and capital projects. After this plan is done, things could get moved around. The OS tax brings in \$110,000. About \$30,000+ is used for debt service. GBD will be providing us with a budget plan, which will be a great tool for future planning.

Harvey mentioned having Open Space be more recreation driven. Ray explained that there is a Rec member on the OS. Recreation has gotten a few great projects in the last few years—highlighted by Tamarack Park. Ray described the software tools that GBD has used in other towns for developing their trail and open space plans. They will be included in the deliverables with this project.

Joe talked about the roles and make-up of the Rec and EC. The Rec Committee is rebuilding and getting organized. It may be best for them to concentrate on programs and events. When they meet with GBD, they will have a lot of input with regards to the recreation needs of the Township. In 2015, the Rec Committee provided the Town Council a 10-year capital plan—the Council did not respond to it. The Rec committee is feeling like they are becoming a department instead of a committee. They are short on people still. Len stated that they need to find the right avenue to get ideas to the Council. They feel that they do not have a connection to the Township since there is not an employee coming to their meeting. Len could email Joe with any needs of the committee and Joe can share it with the Council. The Rec committee will need to do some leg work to put together some information that can be reviewed.

Scott asked about Byram Day. Len Bicher said the Recreation Committee does not know how they can take over Byram Day. They have full time jobs. They thought about having a non-profit take it over. Joe said maybe Byram Day should have participation across the board with all committees. An idea of downsizing Byram Day to a large picnic would be much easier to manage. Alex said they will continue the discussion at the next Recreation Committee meeting.

- Michele Rehse read the EC accomplishments for 2018. Michele commended Donna Fett for doing a great job as secretary, keeping them motivated and driven.
- George Shivas stated that there were a few big applications that came before the board in 2018—Quick Check and Anty Trucking (lower quarry). He stated that reports are given at each meeting from OS, EC, Town Council and Zoning Officer which keeps them very informed.
- There was discussion about have a second entrance into East Brookwood using the right-of-way that was granted by the owner of the strip that the Liquor Factory is on. Harvey stated that we should really look for some outside funding for this. Alex stated that we should talk about it with the Council and if engineering needs to be put in the budget for this, then we need to talk about it.
- John Morytko is chair of the ARC. The ARC meets on an as-needed basis. In 2018, they met 3 times. It is a positive, collaborative process. The ARC works with the Design Guide and reviews ideas with applicants. The ARC cleans up some issues before it gets to the Planning Board. Alex asked if the ARC was an impediment to an applicant. John did not think so. ARC acts as a pre-scrub and could potentially save time at the planning board. John discussed the Venture Too application and how the owner worked with the ARC to design a good site. The ARC lost a valuable member, Vince Gallo, this past year who had been the Chair, because he moved out of town. He was a member since the start of the ARC. Alex asked if there was anything that the Council can provide the ARC. John stated that the Design Guide is 10 years old, and it would be great if the Council supported reviewing/updating it if needed. It would be great if it could be looked at again to bring it up-to-date. The ARC could start reviewing it and they may need some outside help down the road. John stated that the ARC looks at applications as if they are going to be approved. It is not in their purview to decide if it should be approved. John stated the ARC does not make it mandatory that they come to their committee, but they let them know that it could be beneficial. Scott and John stated that Cheryl does a great job advising the applicants about the ARC and guiding through the Planning Board process.

Harvey asked about the recent grant that has been offered by the Highlands Council and if anyone knows of a project that would fit it. Joe stated that he would need to review the grant in detail. Ray talked about the Historical Society's request to do repairs at the Lockwood Cemetery and obtain an easement, which possibly could qualify for this grant, but the project isn't ready to go. Joe stated that in the past he has asked for support to do engineering for certain projects but due to budget constraints, they didn't get approved.

There was discussion regarding out-of-town participants in the sporting organizations. GBD will be capturing the demographics of the teams when they speak to the sporting groups.

Open to the Public – No comments.

ADJOURN

Motion by Scott Olson, second by Nisha Kash, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Prepared by: Doris Flynn