

Environmental Commission Minutes

October 23, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members	Attended October 23, 2025 Meeting
Peter Dlugos – Chair	X
Eric Duch - Co-Chair*	-
Dana Flynn	-
Christine Aboulhosn	X
James Myers	X
Lisa Shimamoto	-
Randy Gutwein	X
Andrew McElroy – PB Liaison	-
Harvey Roseff – Council Liaison	X
Elaine Evers – Secretary	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 – Charles Phillips was in attendance. Debbie Armeno, Byram's Recreation Director also attended.

Review of September 2025 Meeting Minutes – Christine made motion to accept September minutes as presented and seconded by Randy; motion approved.

Committee Reports

- **MRMC** – Last meeting October 21; next meeting December 16.
 - Randy commented on the impact of the government shutdowns on the operations of the MWA and reported on the NJLCV letter to the governor-elect on water issues: PFAS contamination and the current drought.
- **Open Space** – Last meeting October 13; next meeting November 10.
 - Peter commented on the OS discussion with the Township Forester on viability of the 2020-2029 Forest Stewardship Plan and the desire to have updated annual action items to guide planning.
- **Council** – Last meeting October 21; next meeting November 17.
 - Harvey commented on the recent meeting with Veolia, the rise in health insurance for township employees, and the need to expedite road improvements following gas line installations.
- **Byram Trail Keepers**
 - Peter reported there are now 11 volunteer Trail Keepers (including 4 couples), but some trails are still without maintainers.

New Business

- **Recreation Department Update** (Debbie Armeno) – Winter Brochure presented and a review of upcoming events discussed, including a 12/28/2025 co-sponsored Hike with the EC and Mayor Rubenstein.
- **2026 Proposed EC Dates** – 2026 meeting dates presented to Town Clerk for reserving Council Room for fourth Thursdays of the month (January through October). Alternate dates proposed for November and December due to holiday conflicts.
- **Digital Trail Map** – Next steps discussed (including possible lawn signs with QR code “Get outside in Byram!”?)

- **Invasives ID Walk at Forest Lakes** – About a dozen Forest Lakes residents joined this mobile class. Would like to replicate in other Byram neighborhoods in 2026.
- **Sussex County Trails Partnership Meeting** – Peter commented on the main agenda items, including plans to revise the large paper county trail map, which this time will include all Byram trails. The 2026 Sussex County Trails Grant was also announced.
- **Initial discussion of some future collaborations with the BTHS**
 - Nature iPhone photography class – winter or spring
 - Cranberry Lake Historical and Environmental Walk – spring
- There was brief discussion of communicating with the residents about the anticipated prescribed burn in Tamarack Park in late March or early April 2026.
- Peter led a review of the EC's 2025 Goals and led a 2026 Goals conversation: **what are your wildest EC dreams?** James said he would like to work on a riparian buffer project that could be used for educational purposes. Christine would like to focus on lake water quality and HAB prevention.
- **Brief Planning for Upcoming Fall Events:**
 - 10/27 – meeting with DEP representatives regarding Hudson Farm conservation easement trails.
 - 11/9 – Trail Building/Reroute Day at Cranberry Overlook (layout, rake and move blazes?)
 - 11/22 – Simple Bare Necessities talk & demo, 2:00 p.m. at Louise Childs Library
- Peter announced River Cleanup with West Brookwood Assoc. would need to be postponed until sometime next year.
- The EC vote unanimously to use the remaining 2025 budget to purchase materials for mini deer exclosures (fencing and related hardware) and to pay for an annual club membership with the NYNJTC.

Planning Board Applications – No applications presented for discussion.

Old Business: Tabled

• Riparian Buffer Ordinance	• “Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive
• Collaboration with Stanhope EC and MWA on water quality project(s): Drain Way project	• EC member spotlights on social media
• Mansfield Trail Superfund Site	• EC newsletter for expanded outreach
• Lake Management Plan	

Training – NJUCF CEUs count 9 (Dana 1.5; Peter 5; Peter 1.5)

Membership – Alternate II position is vacant.

Budget – Approximately \$300 remaining.

Next Meeting – Scheduled Tuesday, November 18 at 7:15 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn made by Christine, seconded by James, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.