

# Environmental Commission Minutes

## November 18, 2025 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Roll Call** – Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Members	Attended November Meeting
Peter Dlugos – Chair	X
Eric Duch - Co-Chair*	X
Dana Flynn	X
Christine Aboulhosn	X
James Myers	-
Lisa Shimamoto	X
Randy Gutwein	X
Andrew McElroy – PB Liaison	-
Harvey Roseff – Council Liaison	-
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 – None

**Review of October 2025 Meeting Minutes** – Minutes approved as submitted and will be posted to Township's website.

Prior to the Committee reports, Peter passed around several handouts: (1) a recent Township Journal article on all of the collaborative efforts (including with Princeton Hydro) being made on Lake Hopatcong to reduce or eliminate HABs, and the ways in which lake health is woven into the school curricula via lake hydrology lessons, etc. (2) An article on water sampling to detect future HABs written by Christa Reeves of the MWA. Peter commented that we have lots of local resources and expertise to potentially draw on to help the township implement the recent Lakes and Watersheds Management Plan.

### Committee Reports

- **MRMC** – Last meeting October 21; next meeting December 16 – No meeting to comment on.
- **Open Space** – Last meeting November 10; next meeting December 8 – Peter and Eric attended; the bulk of the meeting was devoted to discussing possible projects for the 2026 Sussex Co. Trails Grant, including a ~3 mile loop including the Tamarack and Cranberry Overlook Trails, and short interpretive trails off COJ Park.
- **Council** – Last meeting November 17; next meeting December 2 – EC will present 2025 accomplishments and provisional 2026 goals at the next Council meeting.
- **Byram Trail Keepers** – Peter shared a grid with current maintainer assignments, existing issues and space to record monthly volunteer hours. There are still a few trails that do not have maintainers. Dana suggested inviting the nearby schools to be maintainers. They will follow up.

## New Business

- Review and comment on Byram's NJUCF Plan 2025-2029: Peter led the group through a review of the draft plan, with an eye towards identifying EC's role in implementing the plan. This plan should be referenced as 2026 goals and finalized.
- Review and comment on 2025 EC Accomplishments (in preparation for EC presentation at 12/2/25 Town Council meeting) – suggestion was made to organize by goal. Peter will follow up.
- Debrief on meeting with DEP representatives regarding Hudson Farm conservation easement trails – Mayor Rubenstein, Joe Sabatini, James Myers and Peter Dlugos were in attendance. It was a hopeful meeting; the DEP has determined that Kittatinny Valley State Park will be the administrators of the trails. They hope to begin working on the trails in early 2026.
- Debrief on 11/9/25 Trail Building/Reroute Day at Cranberry Overlook – Although attendance was light, a lot was accomplished. Peter commented that more effort needs to be made to “build an audience”. Another 1.5 to 2 days of work will be needed before the new trail can be christened.
- Final planning for 11/22/25 Simple Bare Necessities talk and workshop – This event is being held at Louise Childs Library on 11/22. Signed purchase order presented to Finance. Elaine will ensure check is available for Dana to pick up 11/21/25.
- Planning for Nature iPhone photography class with BTHS 1/10/26. Peter is working with BTHS members to publicize. Part I of the class will be in the municipal building, and Part II will be held on Lubber's Run Trail.

**Planning Board Applications** – None were available for discussion this month.

## Old Business

● Digital Trail Map	● River Cleanup with West Brookwood Assoc.?
● Preparing for prescribed burn in Tamarack Park	● Lake Management Plan
● Riparian Buffer Ordinance	● “Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive
● Collaboration with Stanhope EC and MWA on water quality project(s): Drain Way project	● Mansfield Trail Superfund Site

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

In reviewing CEUs taken to date, EC members accumulated a total of 16.5 credits which will be submitted to NJDEP's Community Forestry. (Only 8 credits are required.)

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

Andrew McElroy informed the EC Chair that he will be stepping down as PB Liaison. Lisa Shimamoto advised that she had planned to step down as EC member in January but agreed to continue on until Andrew's replacement has been named.

**Budget** – All purchases have been made for the year and submitted to Finance. Remaining budget is \$0.

**Next Meeting** scheduled for December 15 (Monday) at 7 p.m. due to Christmas Day falling on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday.

**Motion to Adjourn** made by Dana and seconded by Randy. Meeting adjourned 9:06 p.m.