

Environmental Commission Minutes

February 26, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.



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

Members	Attended February Meeting
Peter Dlugos – Chair	X
Eric Duch – Co-Chair	X
Dana Flynn	X
Christine Aboulhosn	X
James Myers	X
Randy Gutwein	X
Greg Smth – Planning Board Liaison	X
Rick Proctor – 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 EC Secretary.

Remembering Harvey Roseff - Moment of silence observed in Harvey’s memory; he was very committed to environmental issues.

Public Participation and Open Forum – Laura Sliker in attendance.

Review of January 2026 Meeting Minutes – Motion to accept minutes made by Dana and seconded by Randy; meeting minutes approved and will be posted to Township’s website following meeting.

Committee Reports

- **MRMC** – Last meeting held February 17; next meeting April 21. Randy attended last meeting and provided following report:

Cooperative Agreement Funding Updates

The Cooperative Agreement has seen an increase in annual funding from \$210,000 annually to \$220,000 annually. The additional \$10,000 is being allocated to additional lab supplies and to support a part-time season Environmental Education position to expand education programming. National Park Service is looking to allocate funds to “Special Projects” with funding of \$5,000 to \$30,000. Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) plans to seek this funding to assist with website improvements and/or expanding Wild and Scenic educational programming.

Education and Recreation Grants

MWA was recently selected for a second year of National Parks Foundation Junior Ranger Angler Grant (\$25,000).

MWA is applying for two grants to improve its paddling programs:

- Mohawk Canoe Club’s Grant (\$5,000)
- Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation’s Grant (\$15,000)

Development Update

Roxbury:

- National attention has come to a warehouse facility in Roxbury which is being looked at by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as a new detention center.
- The facility was planned to use 11,700 gallons of sanitary sewer allocation daily, meant to be used by staff. If used as an ICE detention facility, property could see up to 187,500 gallons of sanitary sewer usage per day with an estimated 1,500 detainees.

MWA River Cleanup

Date: April 4, 2026 @ 9 a.m.

Location: Lake Hopatcong to Delaware River confluence

Registration: <https://www.musconetcong.org/river-cleanups>

- **Open Space** – Last meeting held February 9; next meeting March 9
 - Peter Dlugos reported that planning continues for the Sussex County Trails Grant (due May 15). A new loop trail is being proposed that will cross Hudson Farm and CAD properties, pending approval. Issues include the feasibility of crosswalks where the trail crosses Tamarack Rd, desired signage, and the cost and feasibility of creating a small parking lot at the top of Indian Springs Road. that would allow access to Cranberry Overlook without the strenuous hill climb.
- **Council** – Last meeting held February 17; next meeting March 9.

Ricky Proctor shared the following updates:

 - Tilcon’s license was renewed.
 - The auto yard on Lackawanna Drive was sold to Hudson Farms.
 - An MoU has been crafted with township unions to reduce benefits costs.
 - The Dog Park concept adjacent to COJ Park has been put on hold indefinitely due to the presence of copperheads.
- **Byram Trail Keepers** – Initial online meeting is scheduled for March 5. On reviewing draft by-laws for the Trail Keepers, Joe Sabatini suggested that they report to the EC.

Member Reports - None

New Business

- Dana shared ideas for doing a Native Plant event in the early summer (June). The event would likely use a substantial portion of the EC’s 2026 budget. Ideas were shared for combining a giveaway with a sale. She will return next month with a more specific proposal and budget.
- Collaborating with Mrs. Poff at Byram Lakes Elementary School starts in April.
 - Support with construction and installation of bird houses is needed. Initial meeting will be held February 28.
 - Clean up day at the school interpretive trail - date needed.
 - Trail maintenance & Invasive Plant ID class for Environmental Club will be scheduled.
- Prescribed burn in Tamarack Park: still waiting for an update. Eric will work on PR on the advantages of prescribed burns.
- Annual Musconetcong River Cleanup at Port Morris Park is scheduled for April 4, 9:00 am. Peter has volunteered to be the coordinator and will promote on social media. Supplies will be provided by the MWA.
- Planning for Earth Day (4/22) and Arbor Day (Friday 4/24) – final planning will take place next month.
- Barberry remediation at Glenside Woods and Briar Ridge South will take place during first half of 2026. Glenside Woods will be mechanical and require volunteers. There is more than an acre at Briar Ridge, and herbicide will be pursued.
- Planning Board Applications
 - [Block 131 Lot 1, 3 Lakeview Trail, Michael Marotte](#) (deck extension)
EC recommends a stormwater management plan (including dry wells, rain barrels or green infrastructure interventions) to reduce stormwater runoff into the lake. The plan should be inclusive of the existing roof and the proposed additional roof that will add impervious cover to the property. For the same reasons, we also request compliance with the Township’s vegetative buffer ordinance for lakefront properties: a 10-ft. wide buffer of native trees and shrubs on 80% of the waterline.

Old Business

- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site - no new updates.
- “Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive and Harborview Beach – no updates on the former; on the latter, testing should be done by the FLC prior to removal.
- MWA Drain Way Project and West Brookwood River Cleanup – no updates.

Training – NJUCF CEUs – 8 needed.

Membership – Alternate II and Lisa’s positions vacant.

Annual Budget – \$2,600 – ANJEC \$500 renewal – temporary budget amount \$900.

Next Meeting – to be held Thursday, March 26.

Motion to Adjourn made by Chrstine and seconded by Dana; motion accepted and meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.