

Environmental Commission Minutes
June 25, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

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

Open Public Meeting Statement was read.

Public Participation and Open Forum — No members of the public were present.

May 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved; motion was made by Greg and seconded by Christine.

Committee Reports:

MRMC – Randy reported the following:

Roxbury: Roxbury Facility Inquiry: In response to a status question from Randy Gutwein (ByramEnvironmental Commission), it was noted that the state of New Jersey has filed a lawsuit concerning the Roxbury ICE detention facility. The Council has no new data since the prior session and continues to monitor water quality elements. Update, the project has been put on hold, I will continue to monitor with any latest news as they develop.

PFAS: MWA is coordinating a spring/summer educational roundtable featuring specialists from the organization, American Water, the NJDEP, and Fish and Wildlife to assess EPA data regarding the Washington township PFAS site.

Interpretive Events:

- June 19–26: The 2026 Delaware River Sojourn.
- June 23rdThe MWA and MRMC are organizing a joint educational outreach tent at Worthington State Forest to engage campers and paddlers.

- July: The annual Camp Musky summer youth program.

Andover Data Center: The proposed data center in Andover has been scrapped.

Open Space – Peter reported that the OS committee continues to await word on the County Trails Grant. The proposal for additional signage at the township’s open space parcels and trail heads is progressing, as is the plan to update the 2013 print map. The plan to have the dense invasive barberry on the Briar Ridge South treated with herbicide has not progressed.

Town Council – Ricky reported on the recent Police Award Ceremony and police lieutenant promotion; special fireworks plans for ByramFest 250th Anniversary; a Council resolution urging fair and equitable reforms with regard to health benefits; praise received for a recent township budget audit; an accepted donation for a free fishing program for kids; and a Clean Communities grant award.

Byram Trail Keepers – Peter reported that the Trail Keepers will be focusing on improving wayfinding in Glenside Woods and rerouting the Briar Ridge North trail into a lollipop loop north of the powerline, so the trail no longer ends on Whippoorwill Ln.

Member Reports: Peter reported that the town of Madison recently received a grant to fund business owners and homeowners in replacing their barberry shrubs with native shrubs. He’s hoping something like this can be done in Byram in the years ahead.

New Business

- Native Plant event on September 12th: Planning in proceeding for event at the Firehouse. Wild Ridge Plants will be handling setup.
- Co-sponsored Weaving Event with Sally Orgren on Oct. 10th or 11th: planning continues in conjunction with the Byram Township Historical Society
- Native Habitat Restoration at Glenside Woods: three workdays have occurred so far; Peter expressed appreciation for all those who have contributed to the barberry removal. Several more days will be needed to remove the bulk of the barberry, but it is feasible and will make a critical difference with respect to disrupting the forming monocultures. Replanting with native trees and shrubs is under discussion, and would be a great project for grant funding in 2027 or 2028.

Planning Board Applications:

- ☐ [Z17-2025, Block 298 Lot 2201, corner of Lee Hill and East Shore, Lenker](#)

The EC noted that the application lacks a plan for a septic system and hence will need to be reviewed again. With 100% of the property in a riparian zone, and 57% of the lot designated as steep slopes, the EC recommends a plan for stormwater management. A bioswale adjacent to the driveway should be considered.

- ☐ [Block 242 Lot 23.01, 11 Lake Drive, Avi and Ita Barak](#)

The EC recommends that the owners maintain the vegetative buffer that exists along the shoreline; it appears to currently be in full conformity with the township’s ordinance on riparian buffers. The EC also recommends submission of a landscaping plan, including plans to remove or add trees.

Highlands Interactive Map: <https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis/REX/#-74.69086,40.90764,5.17>

Old Business:

- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site—no updates
- Prescribed burn in Tamarack Park—no updates
- “Dirty Dirt” In Forest Lakes—no updates
- West Brookwood River Cleanup—no updates

Training – NJUCF CEUs – .5 still needed.

Membership – Alternate II position vacant.

Annual Budget – \$2,600 – ~\$925 remaining Peter indicated that the EC is due for another round of shirts for commissioners. Greg indicated that hats would also be a good way of getting the EC name into the community. Remaining funds can also be used to restock work gloves, purchase another root-cutting shovel, and purchase some 10-mil vapor barrier that can be used for sheet mulching. A motion will be made at the next meeting.

Next Meeting to be held Thursday, July 23 at 7 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 pm; motion made by Greg and seconded by James.