

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
April 27, 2023 - 7:30 PM

Dana Flynn	Chairperson	X
Eric Duch	Co-Chairperson	X
Lisa Shimamoto	Member	
Peter Dlugos	Member	X
James Myers	Member	
Christine Aboulhosn	Member	X
	Member	
	Alternate 1	
	Alternate 2	
Andrew McElroy	Planning Board Liaison	X
Harvey Roseff	Council Liaison	X
Rachel Popadich	Secretary	X

Call meeting to order, meeting opened at 7:37pm.

**Open Public Meeting Statement-** Adequate notice of this Zoom 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, at not 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** – N/A

**Review of Meeting Minutes** – March 23, 2023, – Motion to accept by Christine, seconded by Eric

**Planning Board Applications** – Reference maps:

Highlands Interactive Map - [https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis/interactive\\_map/#/-74.63346/40.87985/3](https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis/interactive_map/#/-74.63346/40.87985/3)

NJDEP GeoWeb Mapper -

<https://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=02251e521d97454aabadfd8cf168e44d>

[SP2-2023-03.15.2023 Tony Reis \(Venture II\)](#) EC Comments:

- EC Recommends using native plants in landscaping along the south side of the property and along the back (west side). Confirm that any additional lighting will not adversely impact the residential neighbors. The buildings should tie into the existing stormwater management system.

[SP3-2021- 06-25-2021 Nielsen Nissan](#) EC Comments:

- We understand that there is no additional site work, however due to the new stormwater regulations the EC recommends adding an additional native, herbaceous vegetative buffer along

the western boundary (back) of the site to aid in filtering runoff prior to entering the Lubbers Run tributary.

[Z09-2023-04.06.2023 Ronald Rosica](#) EC Comments:

- Due to the sloped nature of the site where will roof gutters be draining? We recommend the home owner installs a rain garden or dry well to prevent water from leaving the property.

[Z10-2023-04.20.2023 Robert and Lisa McManus -](#) Delayed until the May meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

MRMC – Last meeting, April 18; Next meeting June 6; Peter attended and noted a presentation about farmers and the MRMC’s impressive programming. Multiple re-appointments and re-organization. Recommended checking out their website.

Recreation – Last meeting April 17; Next meeting May 17.

Open Space – Last meeting April 10; Next meeting June 12; Eric noted that OS is revising the estimate to Highlands for CO Johnson improvements.

Council – Last Council meeting, April 18; Next meeting May 2. Harvey mentioned that in November the referendum vote on the municipal building will take place. CO Johnson Park repairs are estimated at \$5 million, excluding repairs to the field house. Grants are being discussed. Provided overview of BTHS 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in 2023.

## **New Business**

-2023 Events- Recreation is holding a Mother’s Day hike on May 13 at Allamuchy State Park Trail head.

-EC will be attending Canal Day at Waterloo Village on June 24 from 10am to 4pm. EC will have a booth set up. Details to be finalized at next two meetings.

- Peter- Shawn (Rec) will not be able to attend National Trails Day but agreed that a cleanup for the trails would be good. National Trails Day is June 3. Peter and Eric agreed to lead an event and suggested inviting the Trails Committee and Recreation. Trails suggested were the following: Joe - trail that leads to Cranberry Lake, Peter - Wolf Lake trail, Eric - Tamarack to Roseville/Wolf Lake connector. Eric suggested the Hudson Farm Trail. Dana mentioned that may not be open to public access. Eric will reach out to Joshua at Kittatinny state park to find out.

-Recreation Hikes- EC planning on doing guided hikes in the future, where the public can stop and see the sights along the way and learn more about the trails in Byram.

-Mission Statement – moved to future meeting.

## **Old Business**

-Lake Management Plan – Dana provided an update from Princeton Hydro: Salt levels were conducted after two small snow events. Since it was such a mild winter, algae and vegetation growth started earlier than normal and formal lake monitoring will start at the end of April 2023. EC questioned monitoring locations, access points for lakes, and if they could extend winter sampling.

-Clean communities- Rachel to reach out to Mike about funds.

- Grant for conservation easements and waterfront landscape buffers- Eric suggested the EC apply for the Highlands grant to proceed with recording conservation easements. Harvey suggested a summer intern would be needed to collect all the data. Andrew mentioned the PB used to keep records of easements, had them put on resident's deeds in the past but that has now stopped. Status is with the Mayor/Admin.

-Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – No updates.

-Dana mentioned she visited with the BLES Environmental Club and talked about wetlands and invasive plants. She emphasized their eagerness to learn and recommended that the EC discuss future events for local kids and families.

### **Training**

No updates

### **Membership**

-Alternate I and Alternate II positions currently vacant.

-Christine noted having recruited a potential new member.

**Budget** – \$2,600.

- -2023 EC Purchases:
  - Renewed ANJEC membership
  - Arbor Day/Earth Day, educational events
  - Ground signs

### **Other**

**Next Meeting to be held May 25, in-person.**

**Motion to Adjourn** – was made at 9:43 PM by Christine, seconded by Eric.