

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 22, 2023 - 7:30 PM

Dana Flynn	Chairperson	X
Eric Duch	Co-Chairperson	
Lisa Shimamoto	Member	X
Peter Dlugos	Member	X
James Myers	Member	X
Christine Aboulhosn	Member	X
	Member	
	Alternate 1	
	Alternate 2	
Andrew McElroy	Planning Board Liaison	
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 – May 25, 2023 – Motion to accept by Peter, seconded by James.

Planning Board Applications –

- [SP4-2023-05.04.2023 HRS Drilling](#)- EC Comments:
-Note that a portion of the property is mapped in an Open Water Protection Area
-There is an underground storage tank depicted on the Highlands mapping at the left corner of the property driveway, across from the building. It is listed as "terminated". Whether or not it is still present is unknown. Was it removed? If still present, it should be depicted on the site plan.
- [Z12-2023-05.11.2023 Daven Baez](#)- EC Comments:
-A 10-foot wide vegetative buffer should be added along the lakefront for runoff filtration.
-EC recommends that the proposed above-ground pool be pulled back to the side of the house and/or rotated 90 degrees to distance it from the water's edge. Alternatively, recommend moving the pool to the back of Lot 184.
-Note that the property is mapped as Open Water Protection Area and is within the Riparian Zone.
- [SP5-2023-05.25.2023 Rudy & Vania LLC](#)— Will review at next meeting in July

Committee Reports

MRMC – Last meeting, June 6; Next meeting August 15; Peter attended. Noted that recent elections took place. Events announced included Canal Day on June 24, 2023, at Waterloo Village from 10am to 4pm.

Recreation – Last meeting June 19; Next meeting July 17. Peter attended and provided a National Trails Day update for the committee. Current status of Rec Committee is unknown as full-time director position is still open.

Open Space – Last meeting June 12; Next meeting August 14; No update.

Council – Last Council meeting, June 20; Next meeting July 5. Harvey noted the following:

-Mansfield/East Brookwood - The EPA met with neighbors to try to make the filtration system less impactful on the neighborhood.

-New municipal building to be discussed in future meetings.

-CO Johnson Park - NJ Highlands grant for \$125,000. Plans to add more parking spaces, realign fields, re-surface the basketball court, update the playground. More to be discussed on the CO Johnson renovations in the next 2-3 months.

-Altice was at the last meeting to address customers' needs and issues. May rollout new technology.

-Recreation is still seeking a full-time director.

-BTHS events: Canal Day is to be held on June 24 at Waterloo Village 10am-4pm. September - beefsteak dinner, day before Byram Fest. Two weeks after Byram Fest - Dragon Boat Race at Cranberry Lake. Wild West City will have free admission on Wednesday's for Byram Residents (July). July 17 -fundraiser at Wild West City for the Lakeland Emergency Squad.

New Business

-National Trails Day June 3, 2023 - Peter provided updated and noted that it was well received. Parents seemed interested and would like to get their children involved in future trail clean-ups. Peter mentioned possibly doing a charity hike from Waterloo to Cranberry Lake or around Cranberry Lake to their clubhouse, ask a local restaurant to sponsor.

-Waterloo BTHS Event - 10am to 4pm. Will bring seeds, reusable bags, table, chairs, popup tent, ANJEC wheel of knowledge, amphibian information. Lisa, Dana, and Peter to attend, possibly Eric.

- Recreation Hikes – Shawn from Rec has no hikes scheduled till possibly fall of 2023.

-Mission Statement –Peter provided some examples from other municipalities to review and consider. To be further discussed at future meetings. Possibly setup a subcommittee to tackle the language and focus on two items/points in the statement.

-Peter's Facebook Page- Peter created a page named Friends of Byram Open Space. Provides information on the trails, upcoming EC events, and to hopefully be a community hub for groups in Byram.

-Dana to add educational programming to future agendas – family/kids

-EC and Rec will no longer sponsor the Trex plastic film recycling challenge. Nixle to be sent out to public.

-Stormwater letter- members to review/edit and send to Rachel

Old Business

- Grant for conservation easements and waterfront landscape buffers- Lisa noted that Township will not provide work in-kind for grants that require that element. Need to find a grant that does not require this.

-Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – In 2024, building of the waterlines will begin. Byram School wants to be hooked up to the filtration system, agreement under negotiation. More testing to occur in the fall and plans to be ready by December 2023. Several homeowners will need to have contaminated soil removed.

Training

Need 4 more certificates for the year. Dana will send out training links when she sees them. Christine volunteered to take an upcoming training.

Membership

-Alternate I and Alternate II positions remain vacant.

Budget –

- -2023 EC Purchases:
 - Signage, supplies
 - Others
 - New Banner cost \$130

Other

Next Meeting to be held August 24, in-person.

Motion to Adjourn – was made at 9:53 PM by James, seconded by Lisa.