

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 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
	Alternate 1	
	Alternate 2	
Andrew McElroy	Planning Board Liaison	X
Harvey Roseff	Council Liaison	
Rachel Popadich	Secretary	X

Call meeting to order, meeting opened at 7:34pm.

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 – Chris Kimker attended.

Review of Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2023, – Peter to revise Forest Lakes soil section; otherwise, motion to accept by Lisa, seconded by Peter

Planning Board Applications –

[SP1-2023-02.02.2023 McDonalds](#)

EC recommends using native plants for landscaping, which generally appear to be included in the planting plan. EC reiterates Engineering Review comment regarding de minimis increase of impervious surface from the proposed improvements and that additional stormwater treatment is not required.

[Z05-2023-02.09.2023 Eddie and Marta Lemon](#)

EC recommends that the residents maintain their leader/gutter system for drainage and take care not to damage it during deck construction or footing placement. Recommend adding native landscaping.

[Z07-2023-02.04.2023 Bryan Higgins](#)

Determine gutter placement and drainage. EC recommends directing water away from driveway or neighboring property.

Committee Reports

MRMC – Last meeting, March 21; Next meeting April 18.

Recreation – Last meeting March 20; Next meeting April 17; Lisa attended. March meeting and noted that hikes co-sponsored with Rec could be themed and geared more towards getting the children and teens involved. An EC scavenger hunt for Waterloo Event, where children go to each vendor to learn and find objects needed to win a prize. Peter looking to co-leading a hike on National Trails day with Rec. Peter will coordinate with Shawn from Recreation to clean up the Hudson Westby Trail prior to the hike. Peter mentioned doing a night hike in fall or winter- and recommends some easier hikes for the public to attend, as the recreation hikes are more advanced. Peter mentioned a new trail on Old Indian Trail, will research. James suggested not hiking Tamarack Trail for National Trails Day since it is so frequently hiked. Dana recommended a service hike/clean-up as part of National Trails Day.

Open Space – No meeting held on February 13; Next meeting April 10

Council – Harvey Roseff provided his report prior to the meeting. Last Council meeting, March 7; next meeting April 4.

- The Council began a discussion for what to procure with the \$800,000 Byram has received in Federal funds.

-The Byram Historical Society's Founders' Day event will take place April 2.

<https://bths.us/event/byram-founders-day/>

-There was a joint meeting between Administration, Rec, and the BTHS regarding expanding Byram Fest. The BTHS may hold an under-the-tent Beefsteak Dinner on the Friday night before Byram Fest and some Byram Fest activities may be expanded.

- Byram's EC has been invited to participate in the Greater Byram and Canal Day History event at Waterloo. The BTHS is reaching out to other environmentally minded organizations in the area as well.

- The Lake Study included a section for evaluating road salt impact on the lakes. Considering that there have been so few snow and ice days this winter, Harvey asked the EC for it's thoughts on implementing this part of the study? Dana suggested this be held off till we have a winter with more snow to get a more accurate reading.

-The EPA provided an initial, outline of the proposal to treat water in East Brookwood, including a twice annual salt delivery by tandem truck. Andrew mentioned that the PB asked the EPA to include landscape to the design, not block the road while building, to comply with NJ noise act. Lisa mentioned that the salt deliveries may block the road while filling. James mentioned that the salt deliveries could be loud for about an hour each time they deliver, though this should not disrupt the community.

New Business

-Earth Day event on April 22, at CO Johnson. Will give out re-usable bags and seed packets of native or pollinator wildflower species. Dana looked into 500 bee/pollinator mix for the seeds. Motion to purchase the seed packets Lisa- seconded by Christine. EC decided to keep the current banner for the April event and not do a guided hike after the festivities. Dana mentioned 300+ kids are already signed up for the festivities, which could cause a potential parking issue. Peter suggested handing out flyers to educate the public on soil contamination at the April 22nd event. Lisa and Dana mentioned having a big flyer on the table that describes the seed mixture for the public to take pictures of. James sent Dana a flyer to educate on lanternflies.

-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 – To be discussed later in 2023.

-Facebook Page- Dana spoke to the town manager regarding the EC starting their own Facebook page, and the request was denied. Posts should go through the Byram Government Facebook Page. Peter suggested the EC starting their own Facebook page in the future not linked to the Township. Andrew mentioned it was better to post to the town Facebook page for now as it has many followers.

-Clean communities- Christine reached out to Mike at the DPW and is awaiting a response.

Old Business

- Grant for conservation easements and waterfront landscape buffers- Lisa mentioned that Alex Rubenstein (mayor) was to speak to the town manager about this. James mentioned applying for grants from Highlands.

- Dana mentioned municipal ANJEC grant and, that Eric suggested using it for a connector trail from Mansfield Trail to Stanhope's Lenape Valley Trail. Lisa made a motion to apply for ANJEC grant in coordination with Stanhope, seconded by James.

-New soil ordinance- outreach and education/soil contamination in Forest Lakes- Peter asked Christine if Dorothy from Forest Lakes can provide packets to educate residents on soil contamination. James suggested the town send a Nixle notice to residents regarding soil contamination.

-Tamarack Trail tree cutting - No updates reported on the cut trees.

-Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – Lisa printed the current EPA's data, there was no new or current updates. Byram school wants to become a part of the new water line filtration system. Andrew mentioned that a well was installed in 2014, there has been no reported issues. Lisa mentioned there has been 3 water tests completed for the school, these tests show no issues recently. 20 homes have been affected that now have to be treated for water contamination.

-Lake Management Plan – No update

Training

-2023 Fundamentals for Environmental Commissions – Virtual sessions March 21-23
www.anjec.org/conference-workshops

Membership

- Planning Board Liaison Andrew McElroy has joined the EC.

-Alternate I, and Alternate II positions currently vacant.

-Recruitment- Flyers have been printed to be placed around town.

Budget – New budget not posted until April.

-Temporary budget of \$300 until new budget in April 2023.

- -2023 EC Purchases:
 - Renewed ANJEC membership
 - Arbor Day/Earth Day, educational events
 - New banner subsequent to the new budget

Other

Next Meeting to be held April 27, in-person

Motion to Adjourn – was made at 9:29 PM by Dana Flynn/Lisa Shimamoto, seconded by Peter, Christine.