Environmental Commission Minutes
September 24, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Members	Attended December Meeting
Peter Dlugos – Chair	X
Eric Duch – Co-Chair	X
Dana Flynn	X
Christine Aboulhosn	X
James Myers	X
Randy Gutwein	X
Greg Smith	X
Joshua Spahl	X
Dianne Snyder – Secretary	X

Open Public Meeting Statement was read**.**

Public Participation and Open Forum – Two members of the public attended the meeting. Megan and Janice. Members of the EC introduced themselves. The two public attendees had no comments.

Review of July 2026 Meeting Minutes – Motion made by Peter and seconded by Christine to accept minutes. Meeting minutes approved and to be posted to website.

Committee Reports

- **MRMC** – Last meeting held August 18. Randy reported there were no updates on the Roxbury detention center. Provided update to the digital hub and the Hunterdon-Musconetcong management plan. Fund raising Management plan – approved 146 K. Randy discussed the conversation regarding improving water quality. It is not a regulatory mandate. Discussed the plan data of bacteria levels, chloride and road salt. Free fishing event on 9/26/26. 10/26/26 is the NJ river conference. Next meeting is 10/20/26 at Hunterdon municipality.

- **Open Space** – Last meeting held August 10th. Next meeting October 12th – Peter reported that the open space signs have been approved. Purchased 9/1/26. Sizes 12 x48 signs for all trail heads., 24 x 44 for Trail map. Peter is the point person for all signage.

- **Town Council** – Last meeting held 10/6/26. Township is currently working on the reassessment of taxes. Also discussed Christmas lights – problematic as the lights break and cannot get the parts to fix them. Next meeting is 10/20/26.

- **Byram Trail Keepers** – Last meeting held June 20th. Working on completing the trail with loop and updated maps.

* **Member Reports**
Peter discussed recording the school of conservation – psychology.
Randy discussed the pricing of native plants. Also, deer management.

New Business

- NJUCF Credits – Discussion held regarding total credits to date. Peter emailed NJUCF to request that they send his certificates (6). Dana Flynn has 2 certificates plus an additional 1.5.

- Landscaping with locals - Native Plant event was held on September 12th at Byram Fire Company

- Upcoming: Bobcat Loop Trail Building sessions on 10/3 and 10/25. (10am to 2pm) Peter is the person in charge of these sessions. Volunteers will clear and cut back brush.

- Upcoming: Co-sponsored Weaving event with Sally Orgren on Oct. 10 and Oct. 11th. EC tent will have information on local native and invasive plants. Event is rain or shine

- Byram Community Energy Plan: Sustainable NJ site. Discussed charging stations at Wawa that are level II. There would be no use for charging station at Byram Municipal. Future EV for municipal fleet. Look for software to improve efficiency. This would track vehicles and manage efficiency. Peter will attend zoom meeting on 9/25.

- Open Space Preserve Signage project and Trail Map revision. Peter stated that the Historical Society will fund part of the trail map. Time line is 3-4 months.

- Rehabilitation and maintenance of the EC rain garden at CO Johnson Park: Discussion regarding the maintenance of the rain garden. Currently not being maintained. If anyone is interested in maintaining the garden to let Peter know.

- BYE BYE BARBERRY!. Make it known on the trail that help is needed to remove barberry! Dana suggested putting signs on trails to attract volunteers. Look into a grant for development of the materials. Peter saw signs on Krk Island in Croatia that catches peoples' attention!

Planning Board Applications

Lisa and Frank Maturi 21 Tote Road Block 137 Lot 29 — 15x16 addition to house

Block 137 Lot 29, 21 Tote Road, Lisa and Frank Maturi

The EC notes gutters on the existing home and assumes gutters will be included in new construction. Where do the existing gutters drain, and where will the new gutters drain? In view of the steep slopes on the lower end of the lot, the EC recommends a plan for stormwater management that maximizes the amount of stormwater that remains on property.

- **RitaMartino** 8 Newton Ave. Block 36 Lot 50 - Replace shed in existing footprint

Block 36 Lot 50, 8 Newton Avenue, Rita Martino

The EC has no recommendations at this time.

- **Thomas Mulligan** 61 Birch Parkway Block 307 Lot 1864 -Plan to enclose outdoor porch

Block 307 Lot 1864, 61 Birch Parkway, Thomas Mulligan

The EC noted that the planned screen porch roof adds impervious cover and the AI image of the construction does not include gutters. The EC recommends that gutters be added to the porch roof.
Highlands Interactive Map: https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis/REX/#-74.69086,40.90764,5.17

Old Business

• **Preparing for Prescribed Burn in Tamarack Park** No updates	• **"Dirty Dirt" In Forest Lakes** No updates
• **Mansfield Trail Superfund Site** Lots of run off down hill. Peter sent email. Late October public hearing.	• **West Brookwood River Cleanup** No updates

Training – NJUCF CEUs count 5 (Dana 3.5; Peter 6;) (awaiting Peter's certs from NJUCF) Peter will check to see if the certs have been received from NJUCF.

Membership – Alternate II position vacant.

Budget – $925.00 remaining

Next Meeting scheduled for October 22, 2026 @ 7 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn was made by James and seconded by Christine. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.