

**Environmental Commission meeting Minutes**  
**January 25, 2024 @ 7:30pm**

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Dana Flynn	Chairperson	X
Eric Duch	Co-Chairperson	X
Lisa Shimamoto	Member	X
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
Fran Frederick	Secretary	X

Called Meeting to Order at 7:35pm

**Public Participation** – N/A

**Open Public Meeting Statement**

Adequate notice of this 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, 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.

**Review of Meeting Minutes** – November 30, 2023

- Motion was made by Lisa to accept and seconded by Peter.

**Planning Board Applications**

- [Z29-2023-12.11.2023 Ziad Jalbout](#) –  
 -The EC cannot tell from aerial mapping or the survey if there is a bulkhead at the waterfront or not. If there is no bulkhead, a 10-foot-wide vegetated buffer is required along 80% of the lakefront within the property.  
 -There are numerous trees on the property; do any need to be removed to construct the second story addition?  
 -Where do the current gutters drain? The property owner should consider where runoff will flow.
- [Z30-2023-12.14.2023 David Maida](#)—No Comments
- [Z02-2024- Block 157 Lot 272, 55 N. Shore Road, Catherine Trader](#)—No Comments

**Committee Reports**

- MRMC – Last meeting, December 12; next meeting February 20

- Peter attended. They are working on Junior Ranger booklets and have a graphic artist that may be helpful to the EC if needed.
  - River Counselor Orientation – NPS funds MWA. Grants are available for lands near the river or along tributaries.
- Recreation – Last meeting, January 9; next meeting February 13
  - No EC representative at the Jan 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Meetings for 2024 Have been changed to Tuesdays 8:00PM.
- Open Space – Last meeting, December 11; next meeting February 12
  - Noted the CO Johnson playground replacement.
- Council – Last meeting, January 16; next meeting January 30
  - Harvey attended and shared information about the inclusive playground. Open meeting to be held January 30<sup>th</sup>. Grant is due 2/7 and covers ¾ of the total cost.
  - 2024 Budget was introduced.
  - Council received two complaints on environmental noise. Revised noise ordinance was never approved – Town is trying to rectify.
  - Discussion on whether EC should invite the Trails Committee to attend one of the EC meetings to discuss partnering on events. Discussed having them as a sub-committee of the EC and requesting to change the ordinance. Dana emphasized that they should be separate if the level of trail work remains the same or continues to increase.
  - Harvey attended the December Highlands Council meeting and noted the large turnout in opposition to the proposed draft Highlands BMPs.

### **New Business**

- Winter hike recap
  - Cancelled due to weather.
- EC water bottles
  - On hold until EC has a budget for 2024.
- 2023 Byram Annual Report – EC accomplishments.
  - This was an additional attachment to the agenda and is still under review by Phil & Joe.
- MWA Flow Together Workshops – Phase 2.
  - Peter will report afterward. 2/7 – hybrid session from 6:30-8 (Asbury) and 2/21 at Lake Hopatcong Foundation 6:30-8. Registration required.
- Tree Seedlings – Arbor Day.
  - Paperwork submitted 1/17 well in advance of the 1/26 deadline. Giveaway planned for April 20 at CO Johnson. James will obtain seedlings in Parsippany.
- 2024 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant.
  - Up to \$1500 available. Peter and Eric discussed using for an updated trails map – possibly an online map or app. Dana noted that paper maps ensure that a map can be used when cell service is limited and these should still be available to residents.
- 2024 Goals/events.
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in October
  - Waterloo event – June 7. BTHS has a 2/7 meeting.
  - National Trails Day – June. Need a resolution from Council – add to February agenda.
  - Hikes – Peter suggested sponsoring one every other month
  - Eric – Live raptor event for families. Will obtain information.
  - Wetland invasive species walk.

- Eric suggested we plan events well in advance to ensure the committee is organized and completing items in a timely manner. Peter will start a group calendar.

### **Old Business**

- Mission Statement
  - Dana & Lisa have some ideas and can initiate development via email.
- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site
  - No updates

### **Training-**

- Lisa has signed up for 2 classes.

### **Membership**

- Alternate I and II positions are currently vacant.

### **Budget –** Temporary balance is \$700. Full budget – April.

- 2024 Purchases:
  - ANJEC renewal (\$450), water bottles

### **Other**

- James provided written comments on the Tilcon application.
- EC is in receipt of a public notification for a Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation to establish wetlands boundaries for Mayor Rubenstein's property.
- Andrew noted that DEP released a model tree removal ordinance and that municipalities will need to adopt it. Further investigation is needed.

**Next Meeting** to be held February 22, 2024, in-person.

### **Motion to Adjourn.**

- Motion to adjourn (Dana), seconded (Andrew). Meeting adjourned at 10:10PM