

Environmental Commission Minutes
February 27, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Member	Present
Peter Dlugos – Chair	X
Eric Duch – Co-Chair	X
Dana Flynn	X
Christine Aboulhosn	X
James Myers	X
Lisa Shimamoto	X
Randy Gutwein	X
Andrew McElroy – Planning Board Liaison	-
Harvey Roseff – Council Liaison	-
Elaine Evers – Secretary	X

Public Participation – Resident Pat Moschella present.

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, at no 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 January 2025 Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved as written with one minor update. MRMC’s next meeting date to be amended to read “February 18, 2025” vs. “February 20, 2025”. Correction to be made to January 2025’s meeting minutes prior to being posted on town website.

Committee Reports

- **MRMC** – Last meeting February 18; next meeting April 15
 - **MWA Vision Plan Presentation** - The Watershed Vision Plan itself identifies the challenges and opportunities facing communities as we work to achieve our common vision. Unlike technical documents, our Vision Plan is a comprehensive plan for the river, which looks at the river’s water quality and the quality of the Watershed holistically.
Website Link: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/493ec61683bb4c78bbdefac9f916f2c0>
 - **NPS Work Plan/Funding Freeze**
 - **PFAS**
Mid 1950's to 1970's the Castle Creek/Northern Dyeing reportedly discharged 300,000 gallons of wastewater per day over farm fields. The PFAS from sludge seeped into the groundwater. NJEP alerted the EPA of the Sludge Disposal Site is an area in the eastern portion of Warren County, mostly within Washington Township, south of Washington Borough.
YouTube Link: <https://youtube/V5NLWYiXOBQ?si=q4pD1BLqzmzKf0GII>

Open Space – Last meeting February 10; next meeting March 10

- The one agenda item was a presentation by the NYNJTC Trails Director, Peter Dolan, followed by Q&A. The meeting culminated with a motion by Joe Sabatini to approve a services quote for assessing and digitally mapping the Byram trails and holding three workshops in May and June. Motion passed. Peter agreed to write a memo to the Town Council expressing EC support for the activities.

- **Town Council** – Last meeting February 18; next meeting March 4
 - Harvey reported by email: “It is likely that the budget will be introduced at Tuesday's Council Meeting.”

Planning Board Applications

- [Z15-2024 Block 344 Lot 2.03, 271 Lackawanna Drive \(Jennifer Schuffenhauer\)](#)
 - Discussed tract disturbance and outdoor storage; **no further recommendations at this time.**

New Business

- **2025 Goals/Event Planning:**
 - Approval of major 2025 goals: Peter shared a document on 2025 Goals and Objectives that includes a monthly to-do list. Reviewed and discussed.
 - Collaborating with forester on invasives (tentative date: Saturday, March 29, 2025).
 - Zero Waste Event (with Simple Bare Necessities in Sparta): combine with a community swap event? After discussion, it was decided to schedule in the fall, when fewer events are currently planned.
 - Collaborating with NYNJTC: next step will be to choose the trails to be walked and assessed. Peter and Eric will follow up with Patrick Erb, our NYNJTC project leader.
 - Earth Day / Arbor Day
 - Tree seedling giveaway – suggested dates: April 19 or April 26
Lisa made motion to spend not-to-exceed amount of \$200 for dogwood, oak, and pine seedlings; motion seconded by James. Motion approved. Elaine/Peter will work with Finance to generate a purchase order to NJDEP (nursery) located in Jackson to provide seedlings for Arbor Day event.
 - There was extended discussion of native plants. Dana shared that they are hard to find in local nurseries and that people tend not to know about them, much less want them. How to convince local retailers to sell more native plants? There are some nurseries that we may be able to make purchases from and then give away to residents. Education is key. Dana is also working on an update to the recommended plant list for the Planning Board.
 - Mission Statement / Webpage Revisions Review and Approval
 - After a brief discussion, Peter suggested that members review highlighted recommended changes and prepare to vote at the March meeting.

Old Business

- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site–no new discussion/updates took place.
- Lakes and Watersheds Management Plan–no new discussion/updates took place.

Training – After some questioning about admissible training opportunities, Dana explained the CEUs must come from the NJFA because our municipal grant is through this organization.

Membership - Alternate II position vacant.

Budget (TBD)

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m. Next meeting to be held (in person) on March 27, 2025.