

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

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

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

**Public Participation** – Resident Pat Moschella in attendance.

**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 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 February 2024 Meeting** – Motion to accept by Dana, seconded by Christine. Minutes approved as written.

**Committee Reports**

- MRMC – Last meeting February 18; next meeting April 15
  - no update
- Open Space – Last meeting February 10; next meeting April 14
  - no update
- Council – Last meeting March 18; next meeting April 1
  - Harvey updated the commission on second vote on municipal budget; progress on COJ playground, Field 8 improvements and other COJ planned improvements; efforts to get natural gas to CL; discussion of a qualitative noise nuisance ordinance; and a grant to convert the courtroom area into police force offices.

**New Business**

- Recreation Committee update and 2025 collaborative projects
  - Debbie A. gave an update on summer programming, including planned improvements to Byram Fest on 8/23. She offered to assist with another EC/school scavenger hunt in the fall, as well as facilitate Municipal Alliance funding of projects. Also offered to loan her new 10 x 20 tent if needed.
- Mission/Vision Statements
  - There was discussion about whether the statements were in need of additional changes. James emailed comments and Peter agreed to incorporate and prepare to post.
- Controlled burn prep walk and invasives surveying with Heather Gracie and OS members –3/29 at 9 a.m.
  - Short discussion of what will take place and invitation to all to attend.
- Final planning for Arbor Day event (April 19)

- Seedlings were ordered, but still deciding on a venue. Pat Moschella suggested that we collaborate with the Lakeland EMS's Easter Egg Hunt at Wild West City. She offered to connect Peter with Rourke Day at Lakeland.
- DEP ribbon-cutting in Allamuchy Mt. State Park on April 11.
  - Invitation to all to attend.
- 2025 ANJEC Grant – proposals from BTEC?
  - Brief discussion, included applications for paper trail maps and trail/parcel signage. It was noted that any proposal will need TC approval.
  - There was also a suggestion that we might collaborate on a grant in 2026 with the BOE.
- Trails Initiative Update
  - Peter updated the EC on progress being made; Patrick Erb (our NYNJTC contact) is current walking and assessing trails; workshop contents and dates being finalized.
- “Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive
  - There was extended discussion on the EC's role in responding to illegal dumping of construction debris. Harvey proposed that the EC create a resolution to request an open meeting in Byram with the DEP so they can explain what's happening. He referenced the major dumping that occurred in Vernon, and that was only stopped by grassroots community action. Andrew suggested following the TC on calling for a meeting, and then perhaps objecting if they decline. Peter indicated he would like to confer with the FLC Board before taking any action, as they are major stakeholders, and trying to build consensus on a course of action. Eric commented that police must get more involved in preempting these incidents. Dana wondered whether the County Soil Conservation Board should get involved. Harvey indicated they have no role. James suggested that we write a memo to the TC expressing our support for the actions being taken to move the process forward. There was agreement that we do so.
- Riparian Buffer question from PB
  - Andrew described how the PB currently waives the requirement for a riparian buffer when the homeowner has a bulkhead. Bulkheads are not currently mentioned in the ordinance. The question is whether they should be and whether the current practice makes sense. The subsequent discussion clarified that the purposes of bulkheads and riparian buffers are substantially different, that the ordinance should not be changed, and that the requirement should not be waived when there is a bulkhead. Peter agreed to write a memo to Andrew explaining the EC's position on this issue.

### **Planning Board Applications**

Frاندانو [Z01-2025 Block 105 Lot 26, 1 Cranberry Ledge Road, Regina Frاندانو](#)

- No comments from the Commission at this time.

### **Old Business**

- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site (no updates)
- Lake Management Plan (no updates)

### **Membership**

- Alternate II position is vacant.

### **Budget** – TBD

**Next Meeting** to be held in person on April 24, 2025.

**Motion to Adjourn** made by Eric, seconded by James; meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.