

## Environmental Commission Minutes

### May 22, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

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**Roll Call** – Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

**Public Participation** – Resident Pat Moschella and Patrick Erb (NYNJTC NJ Program Coordinator) 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.

**April 2025 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve minutes made by Lisa and seconded by Christine. Motion approved to accept minutes as written.

#### Committee Reports

- MRMC – Last meeting April 15; next meeting June 17.  
Randy reported on discussion of the environmental concerns regarding the increasing construction of warehouses on farmland—impact on e.g. wildlife habitats, sinkholes, water quality
- Open Space – Last meeting April 14; next meeting June 9.  
Peter offered updates on the proposed prescribed burn in Tamarack Park  
There were also updates on renovating the field house in COJ Park
- Council – Last meeting May 20; next meeting June 12.  
Harvey offered planning updates on the official opening of the new COJ Inclusive Playground, the 6/17 event at the Roseville School, 6/21 Canal Day, and the resodding of Field 8 in COJ.

#### New Business

- Patrick Erb (NYNJTC New Jersey Program Coordinator) presented a demo of the My Map digital trail map being created for the Byram Trails. Once the map is finalized it will be available on the Byram Township website.

- Trails Initiative Update – There was further discussion of planning for National Trails Day (June 7); trail design and layout workshop will take place at the new trailhead and trail leading to Cranberry Overlook on Old Indian Spring Road.
- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site Update (Lisa) – No update; Lisa announced next meeting is June 4.
- Riparian Buffer and Bulkhead Issue – Peter shared that the Town Council would like the EC to make a recommendation regarding the ordinance that requires riparian buffers on lakefront properties. Currently, the Planning Board waives this requirement when the property has a bulkhead, or when the lot is too small to meet the requirements. Peter will share the research he has subsequently done and the issue will be revisited at the June meeting.
- Controlled Burn in Tamarack Park – Peter reported that the resolution authorizing a controlled burn in Tamarack Park was pulled from the consent agenda at the recent TC meeting. The TC would like a representative from the NJ Forest Fire Service to make a presentation with Q&A to the TC before considering approval. Peter will reach out to NJFFS to request a presentation.
- Early Planning for Fall Events (Zero Waste, Collaborative Hikes with BTHS, etc.) – Peter indicated he has been in initial communication with the BTHS and Canal Society regarding collaborative walks at Waterloo and Cranberry Lake. Will return to this issue in June. Discussion of the Zero Waste event has been postponed until June.
- Ideas for Future Projects – Peter briefly described some future projects that the EC might want to seek grant funding: deer mini-exclosures featuring native plants and trees, and riparian buffers with native plantings, both for educational purposes with residents.

## **Planning Board Applications**

[Z08-2024-Block 189 Lot 1- 82 South Shore Road, Carkhuff.](#)

Reference Maps: [https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis/interactive\\_map/#!/-74.63346/40.87985/3](https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis/interactive_map/#!/-74.63346/40.87985/3)

Resident's home is being rebuilt to address septic issues. We would like to repeat the recommendation from the previous application: a 10' wide vegetative buffer across 80% of their shoreline. In addition to the planned use of rain barrels to mitigate stormwater runoff into the lake, we recommend the creation of multiple rain gardens with native vegetation. These will further assist in reducing stormwater flow and help filter pollutants that will otherwise enter the lake.

## **Old Business**

- Lake Management Plan—no updates.
- “Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive—Peter will ask Joe Sabatini for an update and report at June meeting.

**Training** – NJUCF CEUs count: 3 to date (1.5 Dana, 1.5 Peter)

**Membership** – Alternate II position is vacant.

**Annual Budget** – Annual budget for 2025 is \$3,600. To date, \$150 has been spent to purchase seedlings for distribution at Arbor Day event held April 19 and \$425 for ANJEC dues.

**Next Meeting** to be held June 26, 2025 (in person).

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Lisa and seconded by Christine. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.