

Environmental Commission—Minutes
May 23, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Peter Dlugos called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Open Public Meeting Statement was read.

Roll Call

Dana Flynn	Chairperson	
Eric Duch	Vice Chairperson	X
Lisa Shinamoto	Member	X
Peter Dlugos	Member	X
James Myers	Member	X
Christine Aboulhosn	Member	X
	Member	
	Alternate 1	
	Alternate 2	
Andrew McElroy	Planning Board Liaison	
Harvey Roseff	Council Liaison	
Fran Frederick	Secretary	

Review of Meeting Minutes—approved.

Planning Board Applications

- [SP5-2023-05.25.2023 Rudy & Vania LLC](#) - Rudy and Vania/Tamarack Road, which was *previously approved*, is looking to move their outdoor dining.
 - No recommendations.
- [Z03-2024-Block 120 Lot 17, 10 Hawthorne Trail, Charles Cirella](#) -carport
 - We recommend that the owner plant shrubs around (a) the structure and (b) the paved area as a buffer for runoff from the paved area.
- [Z08-2024-Block 189 Lot 1- 82 South Shore Road, Carkhuff](#) - Carkhuff revised the plans for their house—was demoed and now they have a vacant lot they’re building a home on.
 - We would like to carry over our comments and recommendations from the previous application; and as a result of the additional lot disturbance taking place because of the reconstruction, we recommend a 10’ wide vegetative buffer across 80% of their shoreline.
- [Z09-2024-Block 144 Lots 135 and 136, 33 Allamuchy Trail \(Scully\)](#) - rebuilding on the property after previous home burned.
 - Because the house exceeds allowable square footage, and is in a Highlands steep slope protection area, property should have significant landscaping, including foundation planting and native planting in the yard for stormwater runoff.
- [Z01-2024- Block 365.01 Lot 1, 2 Briar Lane, Tom Chamberlin](#) - second driveway and accessory structures
 - We recommend the following:
 - Runoff from accessory structures should be captured by raingardens or rain barrels
 - Install landscaping along steep slopes, on downslope side
 - Maintain heavy vegetative landscape buffer along Brookwood Rd.

- [Z10-2024-Block 315 Lot 2143, 387 Springbrook Trail \(Baumgarten\)](#) - addition
 - No recommendations

Committee Reports

- MRMC – Last meeting, May 14; next meeting June 18
 - The Watershed Vision Plan (the first for any watershed in NJ) will be ready in June— check the website—and it is a “story map” meant to enhance local planning efforts: a response to the question “What can we do?”
 - Delaware River Sojourn is scheduled for June 17th
 - Annual Meeting is June 20th
- Recreation – Last meeting, May 14; next meeting June 11
 - No report
- Open Space – Last meeting, April 8: June 10
 - 2024 Goals were articulated:
 - COJ project (Field 8, inclusive playground are top priorities)
 - Evaluate Forestry & timber sale
 - Identify priorities
 - Trails progress/Trails Committee
 - Finances: what does the OP trust look like, going forward?
 - Deadline for DEP deer management grant was deemed too soon to apply; possibly charged to EC for 2025?
 - The possible need for an Open Space consultant was discussed
 - Time to check in on the 10-yr Stewardship Plan (we are at year 4 or 5)
- Council – Last meeting, May 21; next meeting June 5
 - Harvey emailed about a new tree ordinance that is part of the township’s stormwater plan

New Business

- MWA Upper Watershed Special Meeting Discussion from 5/9
 - It was noted that many of the discussion items from 5/9 align with recommendations in the draft Lakes and Watershed Management Plan.
- Draft Byram Lakes and Watersheds Management Plan - [https://www.byramtwp.org/index.php/articles/draft - township of byram lakes and watersheds management plan](https://www.byramtwp.org/index.php/articles/draft_-_township_of_byram_lakes_and_watersheds_management_plan)
 - Most commission members had not had a chance to review it before the meeting, so it was assigned as “homework” for the next meeting.
- 2024 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant – Status
 - No news as of meeting time

All remaining agenda items were deferred to the next meeting: June 27, 2024 in-person

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.