



Environmental Commission Minutes June 26, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members	June 26, 2025 Meeting
Peter Dlugos – Chair	X
Eric Duch - Co-Chair	X
Dana Flynn	-
Christine Aboulhosen	X
James Myers	-
Lisa Shimamoto	X
Randy Gutwein	X
Andrew McElroy – PB Liaison	-
Harvey Roseff – Council Liaison	-
Elaine Evers – Secretary	X


Public Participation – Debbie Armeno, Byram Recreation Director 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 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 May 2025 Meeting Minutes – Motion to accept May’s meeting minutes made by Lisa, seconded by Christine, and unanimously approved by EC members.

Committee Reports

- **MRMC** – Last meeting June 17; next meeting August 19
Randy updated the commission on:
 - (1) Funding available to meet MS4 regs:  6-17 MRMC Stormwater Presentation.pptx
 - (2) EPA PFAS info:
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>
 - (3) Info on assistance from North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development:
<https://www.northjerseyrcd.org/agassist-cost-share>
- **Open Space** – Last meeting June 9; next meeting July 14
Meeting focused on the proposed controlled burn in Tamarack Park. Todd Sacchiero, New Jersey Forest Fire Service will make a presentation to the Council on August 12, and authorizing resolution will subsequently be voted on.
- **Town Council** – Last meeting June 17; next meeting July 1 (no update).

New Business

- Quarterly Recreation Update – Debbie Armeno provided update to EC members and distributed handouts of upcoming “Summer Fun” events. Fall events are to be finalized later this summer.
- Logo Update – TC authorized temporary EC and Trail Keeper logos for advertising purposes.
- Forthcoming Byram Digital Trail Map – Discussion centered on what we initially want for both mobile user and township website users. It was agreed that we start “simple”, knowing future changes and additional features may be made. Eric suggested including parking information on the initial map.

- Closing out NYNJTC Scope of Work – Peter noted with the third and final workshop on June 28, the Trail Conference activity in Byram will begin to wind down, and the project of setting up a trail maintainer's program will need to commence. Eric suggested that we schedule meetings and meet-ups at different times of the day to meet volunteers' needs and preferences.
- Dates for EC-BTHS hike at Waterloo (with Canal Society) and Cranberry/Branch Trail – Peter summarized a conversation with Tim Roth of the Canal Society, indicating he was willing to schedule an interpretive walk during the fall months on a Friday or Sunday. There was general agreement that a Sunday morning would attract more people. Lisa noted we should avoid competing with the Hudson Farm Fall Hike. Peter agreed to find out the date of said hike and proceed from there.
- Planning for Fall Zero Waste Event – Postponed until next meeting.
- Regional EC Gathering – Peter recently met with Wayne Cameron, new Hopatcong EC Chair to learn what Hopatcong is doing. A suggestion emerged to have a social gathering of interested members of regional ECs – more to follow.
- Sustainable Byram – Peter shared that Hopatcong (as well as Sparta and Mt. Olive) participates in the Sustainable New Jersey program, which is a way of both showcasing and funding the kinds of work that ECs do. He shared the website, described what we need to do to join, and invited anyone who might want to take the lead on participating to contact him. <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/>
- Municipal Invasive Species Management Plan (consistent with existing 10-year Forestry Management Plan and Lakes & Watersheds Plan) – Peter shared a one-page start of a plan to move forward with invasive plant species mitigation work that honors existing township planning efforts and integrates (as much as possible) with the trails initiative. He indicated the existence of such a plan should help with funding requests and grant applications.
- EC member Spotlights on Social Media – Peter would like to share a profile each month of an BTEC member on the Facebook Friends of Byram Open Space page. It would include a photo and a brief bio that includes why EC member wanted to join the EC, and perhaps what they want to achieve, as well as any other item of interest. This may help residents want to join us, either as an EC member or volunteer.
- EC Newsletter for Expanded Outreach – Peter suggested that EC may want to publish a short (1-2 page) newsletter (Fall and Spring) that details upcoming programs, accomplishments and educational items. Hopefully, the newsletter (pdf) could be shared via Nixle.
- EC Budget Planning – Peter asked the EC to consider upcoming purchases of the following:
 - 10 x 10 genetic Sun Shade tent (approx. \$225)
 - Weed wrenches (2? \$75-\$350 each) / Boot brushes for Invasives volunteers? (~\$7)
(Eric agreed to conduct research on which weed wrenches are best to purchase)
 - Large print maps for trail kiosks
 - Display posters for Invasives/Native Plants Education (Byram Fest and beyond)
 - EC vision poster
 - Honorarium for Zero Waste speaker (~\$200?)
 - T-shirts for Trail Keepers

Eric made a motion to spend \$500 towards the purchase of three items: 10x10 sun shelter, an easel and several foam-mounted posters to be used for educational purposes. (These items to be used at Byram Fest in August and beyond). Motion seconded by Christine and unanimously approved by EC members.

Planning Board Applications

- Daniel Scully, hearing 07/03 (approved last year but submitted amended application):
[Z09-2024-Block 144 Lots 135 and 136, 33 Allamuchy Trail \(Scully\)](#)
 - The EC comments made on the initial application continue to apply.
- Leah Lowrie, hearing 07/17
[Z02-2025 Block 260 Lot 42.01, 79 Tamarack Road \(Leah Lowrie\)](#)
Parcel of land on Tamarack. Homeowner looking to expand driveway after the fact.
 - No comments at this time.

- Aqua, hearing 07/17: [SP3-2025, Block 337.04 Lot 25.45, Lynn Drive \(Aqua\)](#)
Property is in the woods – water tower.
 - No comments at this time.
- Anthony Castelluccio, being heard 7/17/25 [☐ Z07-2025 Block 403 Lot 77, 4 Sandys Road \(Castelluccio\)](#)
Resident seeks carport for boat.
 - The Commission discussed the implications of the new structure for stormwater management on the property.
 - Will the driveway to the structure be gravel, or impervious? EC recommends plantings with native plants and shrubs around the new structure and driveway to filter any new concentrations of stormwater runoff.

Old Business

- [Mansfield Trail Superfund Site](#)
Lisa and Peter attended recent community meeting at the municipal building. The EPA awarded the contract for construction of the watermain. It will be a 4” single line with a blow off at the end of Brookwood Road and booster pumps to help get water up to the homes. This work is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2026. Details of the water piping will be available in the near future. Veolia stated that it will only provide water to the affected homes and not to other homes on Brookwood Road.
- [Lake Management Plan](#) – no update.
- [“Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive](#) – Peter shared a recent memo from the DEP provided to him by Joe Sabatini, Township Manager.
- [Riparian Buffer and Bulkhead Issue](#)
The group revisited the task of making a recommendation to the Town Council on revising the town ordinance requiring a vegetative riparian buffer on lakefront properties. The current ordinance requires a 10’ wide buffer over 80% of the waterfront and is currently waived when a bulkhead is present. It also seems impractical or unreasonable in the case of small lots. Lisa suggested that this width should be a percentage rather than a static number, and there seems to be an agreement on that. Peter will provide a draft for consideration at the next meeting.
- [Controlled Burn in Tamarack Park](#) – Status discussed earlier in the evening.
- [Municipal Composting](#) – Peter further studied the possibilities. It appears the municipal programs that collaborate with major composting operation in Andover are all citizen fee-based (~\$60/year/household). To participate, a third-party hauler would need to be contracted. Our closeness to the Andover facility may reduce costs. State requirements are likely prohibitive for Byram, including having a roof over the composting bins to be placed in the municipal complex. A suggestion was made to promote homeowner composting instead.

Training

- NJUCF CEUs count 8 (Dana 1.5; Peter 6.5)

Membership – Alternate II position is vacant.

Budget – \$3,025 remaining.

Next Meeting – Scheduled July 24, 2025.

Motion to Adjourn made by Lisa; seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.