

**Environmental Commission - Minutes
November 26, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Roll Call - Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m.

<i>Dana Flynn</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	N/A
<i>Eric Duch</i>	<i>Vice Chairperson</i>	X
<i>Lisa Shimamoto</i>	<i>Member</i>	X
<i>Peter Dlugos</i>	<i>Member</i>	X
<i>James Myers</i>	<i>Member</i>	X
<i>Christine Aboulhosn</i>	<i>Member</i>	X
	<i>Member</i>	
<i>Randy Gutwein</i>	<i>Alternate 1</i>	X
	<i>Alternate 2</i>	
<i>Andrew McElroy</i>	<i>Planning Board Liaison</i>	N/A
<i>Harvey Roseff</i>	<i>Council Liaison</i>	X
<i>Elaine Evers</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	X

Public Participation – Judy Cohen attended.

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 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve October 2024 minutes made by James, seconded by Eric.

Committee Reports

MRMC – Last meeting October 15; next meeting December 17.

Peter’s second term is coming up soon and if anyone is interested, please let him know. Hybrid meetings are held every other month for 90 minutes. Need to let Cindy know by the end of the year so the Mayor and Council can vote on it in January.

- Lake Management Plan approved. MWA is seeking funding for testing in the upper watershed. Identify sources. Apply for grant. Peter follow up with Joe. \$60,000 needed. Report provided example sources of E.coli. (Sewage waste, cows, yeast, dogs). Septic tanks right on the lake. MUA has funding available and maybe we can get funding at no cost, per Harvey and James.
- Harvey suggests Cindy Church be invited to December’s meeting. Township wide septic pumping ordinance suggested by Eric. Harvey doesn’t see any data ... storm water, steep slopes and no homes with septic systems are directly on Forest Lakes. Focus should be on Cranberry Lake and Lake Lackawanna. Does every three years of pumping matter?

Open Space – Last meeting October 7; next meeting December 4.

- Seeking to hire a consultant to address stewardship of Township Parks. Peter reached out to Barbara at the Highland Coalition and the NY/NJ Trail Conference for any interest.
- Byram Township Trail map project. During OS Meeting was told by Township Manager that we would need to have three bidders for Open Space approval. Need to review ANJEC project description for content to see if it is enough for enticing additional bids. Need to approach and identify businesses. Project on hold until second bid received.

Council – Last meeting November 18; next meeting December 3.

- CO Johnson – (Harvey) playground to be demolished and an all-inclusive playground equipment is to be installed in the spring. Field 8 will get drainage improvements and made larger to support field hockey, lacrosse and soccer (multi-purpose). Upgrade what is existing work to begin February/March and be ready for 2026 season.
- Historical Society
 - Fundraising event (Harvey) – 100 tickets sold. Went well and was on par with what was done two years ago. Good food and drink – 100 people – beer/bourbon caskets, wine, variety of tastes. This was a Byram Social event. Outreach consisted of postings on Sports sites, elite, rec page.
 - School House is their next project, looking to renovate the interior ... updating displays/history. Sort through what fits, and what has accumulated. Several EC members would consider volunteering time to renovation project.
 - Other comments: Class trips in spring. \$10 to be a member. 6 core people and others who filter in and out depending on events/projects. Facebook site is usually quiet ... until anniversary. 90 followers.

New Business

- Avian Wildlife Center Presentation recap – family-oriented event. Approximately 100 people attended. Public donations at event raised an additional \$250 to support the AWC. Event was well received, consideration of supporting something similar in 2025. 20 people used QR code sign-in, 15 sign-in sheet and 12 on individual sheets. Peter indicated public is interested in QR questionnaire for Invasive Plant and Trail Events. Thank you to Judy Cohen for putting this questionnaire together. Follow-up task for secretary is to consolidate list from this and past events to allow better publicity of future events.
- Winter EC hike or trail clean up – anyone interested, let Peter know. He hopes to make it educational, about 5 miles and moderately significant. Winter solstice scheduled for December 21 at 2 pm on Facebook. Possibilities of a full moon hike, the first one is scheduled December 15 (Cold Moon). Lisa mentioned the Jefferson-Glen Bike Path from a previous hike. The flat/wide trail is near ShopRite and was attended by Boy Scouts, lots of fun. January 13 is Wolf Moon. January 15 – full moon hike?
- County trail work & hikes need volunteers to reach out.

2025 Goals/Events

- Establish goals and set up events and projects for grant applications to align with EC goals.
Next steps:
 - Identify events and projects
 - Setup timelines for formulating events
 - Consider review and approval process, grant deadlines, time for public outreach
 - Put together a new Resolution to request town council support of 2025 events early on to cover us for the year.
- Educational events
- Social media to raise awareness
- See Peter's attachment for EC goals, events and opportunities.

Old Business

- Mission Statement to be cleaned up. Peter felt this could be handled offline by 2 or members outside of our normal meeting.
- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – new wells to be tested in December and a new report should be following thereafter.
- Lake Management Plan accepted/adopted. Focus on watershed and public property, roads. DEP is announcing grants. Keep on our radar. Multiple communities to come together isn't going to work. Storm water Local engineering houses. Maybe have Cory to attend a meeting.
- Summarize 2024 achievements in December meeting.

Planning Board Applications

- Tedesco (for merging of two lots): [Z19-2024 Block 281 Lot 487 and 428, 25 the Rotunda \(Alan Tedesco\)](#) – nothing for EC to discuss. No additional comments.
- Grabler (for second-story addition): [Z20-2024 Block 162 Lot 44, 39 Meteor Trail, William Grabler](#) postage size house right on the lake - plan shows it is a 2 bedroom house. No lake buffer, two docks. Stone --- where is the storm water runoff going? It is not okay for storm water to run off into the lake. Not allowed to direct water through a pipe to lake ... landscape entire backyard. Retain runoff before going into lake. Dry well, rain garden. Property slopes downward. Slow down the flow of water. No bulkhead is seen in the photo of the house. Footprint is getting bigger. Squaring off the property. Storm water management. Full bathroom downstairs. Impossible for owner to do 80% lakefront buffer needed to slow the water down before it gets to the lake. If unable, rain barrel or rain garden can be used to slow down the water.
- Smith (for fence, pergola, driveway certification, and wood storage): [Z21-2024 Block 279 Lot 328.02, 26 Crescent Drive South, Greg Smith](#) pile of wood is up against house and no mention of a future shed to be used for wood storage. Not sure why a variance is needed? Nothing to do with the EC.

Training

- NJUCF CEUs completed for 2024. Lisa and Dana to figure out if there is a possible shortfall of 1.5 CEU's

Membership

- Alternate II position remains vacant. Judy Cohen encouraged by EC members to join.

Budget

Remaining balance = \$0.00

Other

Tilcon Quarry application was reviewed by James and is now being reviewed by Peter.

Next Meeting to be held Wednesday, December 18, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m. (in-person).

Motion to Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Lisa and seconded by Peter at 9:32 p.m.