



# Environmental Commission Minutes

## December 15, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

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

### 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.

**Public Participation and Open Forum** – Mayor Alex Rubenstein in attendance.

**Review of November 2025 Meeting Minutes** – Motion made by Eric and seconded by Christine to accept minutes. Meeting minutes approved and to be posted to website.

### Committee Reports

- **MRMC** – Last meeting October 21; next meeting December 16 (no meeting for updates)
- **Open Space** – Last meeting December 8; next meeting January 12 – Peter discussed the focus of what will be Byram's 2026 Sussex Co. Trails Grant request: a loop trail that will connect Tamarack, Cranberry Overlook, and Wolf Lake Mountain trails.
- **Council** – Last meeting December 2; next meeting December 16. – Alex discussed difficulty in finding qualified candidates to fill PB liaison position vacated by Andrew McElroy. Lisa expressed interest in assisting in PB role until replacement has been appointed. Further discussion will take place at next Council meeting.
- **Byram Trail Keepers** – Peter shared his view that club bylaws need to be set up to provide more structure to the initiative.

**Member Reports** – None

### New Business

- Debrief on the 12/9/25 ANJEC Regional Collaboration Meeting – Peter attended this meeting last week, of Morris Co. ECs, which focused featured presentations on “pocket forests” and recycling. He would like to bring the pocket forest presenters to Byram.

- Review of Byram's Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) and MS4 Process – Mapping – Peter reviewed the purpose of the WIP and expressed optimism that the next phase of planning will yield actionable steps.
- 2026 Green Acres Stewardship Grant and ANJEC Grant: the former will be skipped this year due to the need to focus on the trails grant. ANJEC grant ideas will be revisited in 2026.
- NJUCF Green Infrastructure Champion Training and Rutgers Environmental Steward Training – Peter encouraged EC members to consider signing up for one of these programs.
- Collaborating with BES, BIS and LVR on trail maintenance, invasives, and river water sampling? (with MWA) – Discussion deferred until Dana returns.
- 2026 Goals and Events Planning: GPS Map Rollout & Loop Trail Grant; Native Plant Giveaway; Riparian Buffer project(s); Invasives Project(s); Homeowner Composting Project? Peter suggested that the EC continue to work on the broad goals of 2025 and simply update/add action steps for 2026.
- Final planning for Nature iPhone photography class (Historical Society) to be held 1/10/26 – Flyer with registration details to be sent after meeting for participants to register for this upcoming event.
- Hike with Mayor Rubenstein to be held on 12/28/25 (weather permitting). Peter volunteered to lead hike if needed.

### Planning Board Applications

#### Z13-2025, Block 29 Lot 294.01, 22 Mayne Avenue, Matthew Malloy

The architect's elevations do not show gutters, but we assume there will be gutters. Given the narrow lot, every effort should be made to ensure there is no stormwater runoff to neighbors' properties. The front yard has plantings, but the rear yard does not appear to have them. We recommend adding plantings in the back yard to absorb stormwater runoff.

#### Z11-2025, Block 162 Lot 46, 41 Meteor Trail, David and Cindy Lisk

This is an environmentally sensitive and hence severely constrained lot (e.g., steep slopes, riparian zone). Based on the inclusion of additional impervious coverage (stairs) that will increase and accelerate stormwater runoff, we strongly recommend shoreline plantings to serve as a riparian buffer. Township ordinance calls for a 10 ft. wide landscaping buffer over 80% of the shoreline.

### Old Business

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preparing for Prescribed Burn in Tamarack Park</b> Eric will take the lead on public relations; he invited others to join him.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Dirty Dirt” on Hemlock Drive (no update)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mansfield Trail Superfund Site</b> Lisa reported that shrubs have been removed for the new water company building. Eric stressed that trail access should be restored when work is done.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MWA Drain Way Project &amp; WB River Cleanup</b> (no update)</li> </ul>

**Training** – NJUCF CEUs count 5 (Dana 1.5; Peter 5; Peter 1.5)

**Membership** – Alternate II position vacant.

**Budget** – \$0 remaining

**Next Meeting** scheduled January 22, 2026 @ 7 p.m. (Note all 2026 meetings will be held 7:00 p.m.)

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Lisa and seconded by Christine. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.