

Environmental Commission - Minutes
December 18, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call - Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

<i>Dana Flynn</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	X
<i>Eric Duch</i>	<i>Vice Chairperson</i>	-
<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>	-
	<i>Alternate 2</i>	
<i>Andrew McElroy</i>	<i>Planning Board Liaison</i>	X
<i>Harvey Roseff</i>	<i>Council Liaison</i>	-
<i>Elaine Evers</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	X

Public Participation – None

Open Public Meeting Statement

Review of Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve November 2024 minutes made by Peter and seconded by Christine.

Committee Reports

MRMC – Last meeting December 9; next meeting February 18.

- Peter provided an update, and noted that Randy also attended the December MRMC meeting.
- Provided a presentation on harmful algal blooms (HABs) and noted that the NW NJ lakes are providing optimal conditions for HABs.
- Volunteer awards given and MRMC seeking applicants for a Junior Ranger/Angler program.
- Mentioned NJDEP Trail Needs survey. Peter offered to complete this on behalf of Byram Trails.
- MRMC conducting a PFAS survey – TBD.

Open Space – Last meeting December 9; next meeting January 13.

- Peter and Eric were in attendance at the December Open Space meeting.
- Discussed a timber sale – will hold off for now due to fuel costs. About 150 trees will be taken.
- Forester present and discussed invasives removal and possible burn in Tamarack Park (possibly March 2026).
- Invasive removal proposed in Glenside Woods and Cranbury Overlook due to small, manageable populations of species present.

- Community Forestry Plan – EC can provide input to forester. Propose walking the areas with forester.
- Open Space funds to be used to rehabilitate the CO Johnson fieldhouse, renovate the schoolhouse and cemetery.
- Possible Open Space consultant – Peter Dolan with the NY/NJ Trail Conference. Would oversee the Open Space Program with EC input – meeting on January 8 via Zoom.
- EC members want clarification regarding the role of Open Space. What are the responsibilities of the Open Space Committee?
- Green Acres Grant – February.

Council – Last meeting December 17; next meeting January 7.

- No updates, representative absent.

New Business

- Winter EC hike or trail clean-up: Peter planned a 2 PM winter solstice on Saturday, 12/21 at 2 PM on the Waving Willy Trail.
- 2025 goals/events:
 - Peter prepared a list (with some collaboration) of potential goals and projects for 2025 and beyond. EC members discussed some of the topics.
 - Dana agreed to reach out to Simple Bare Necessities in Sparta for an educational presentation on sustainability and zero-waste.
 - The responsible party for the trail mapping project is unclear and needs to be determined. There was further discussion about various committees/commission responsibilities and limitations placed on the EC from the Township for various initiatives.
 - Members liked the idea of hosting a native plant sale (or giveaway), likely for 2026, and providing native plant education opportunities.
 - Andrew agreed to provide the plant list that is provided for planning board applications for review.

Old Business

- Mission Statement – No updates, ongoing task.
- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – No updates. Testing was performed in the fall.
- Lake Management Plan – No updates.

Planning Board Applications

- [Z22-2024 Block 36 Lot 50.02, 10 Newton Avenue, Prestige Country Homes](#) (addition)
- Note the presence of the property to Lubbers Run and location within a Highlands Open Water Protection Area.

Training

- NJUCF CEUs completed for 2024.

Membership

- Dana is stepping down as EC chair but will remain as EC member.
- Peter agreed to take over as EC chair effective January 1, 2025. All present in favor.

Budget - \$0

EC members agreed to continue membership with ANJEC. Motion made by Christine to spend \$450 for annual membership renewal, seconded by Lisa. All present in favor.

Other

Next Meeting to be held in person on Wednesday, January 23, 2025 @ 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn – Motion to adjourn made by Peter and seconded by Dana at 9:24 PM.