

TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
MEETING OF THE BYRAM TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
10 Mansfield Drive, Stanhope NJ 07874
Monday, June 8 2026, 7:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84920783541?pwd=GlllogKreAEcN87Fc43aEyUJqLuaBas.1>

Meeting ID: 849 2078 3541 / **Passcode:** 668952

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The public will have an opportunity to comment at appropriate times during the meeting. The following is the agenda to the extent known:

- **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting has been electronically sent to the newspapers, posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, and uploaded to Byram's website, www.byramtwp.org not less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. In addition, a copy of this notice is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk. A resolution indicating the time, date, and location of the Open Space meetings for the year 2026 was forwarded to the designated newspaper for online publication, posted on the bulletin boards and main doors of the Municipal Building and on the Township's Website and forwarded to the Secretary of State of the State of New Jersey.

- **ROLL CALL**

- **OS FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT**

1. Reserve for Open Space: \$420,748.57

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –May 11, 2026 Minutes**

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Deer Hunting

- **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Trail Grant Updates
2. Trail Signage and Mapping
3. Forestry Updates

- **MEMBER REPORTS – Reports from members on actions by their committees pertinent to OS.**

- **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- **CLOSED SESSION**

- **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE COMMITTEE DEEMS NECESSARY**

- **ADJOURNMENT**

2026 Meeting Dates:

July 13th

August 10th

September 14th

October 12th

November 9th

December 14th

17-286-56-000-001 Reserve - Open Space

From 01/01/2026 to 05/26/2026

Date	Source	PO#	Contract#	Check #	Vendor #	Vendor/Description	Budget	Debit	Credit	PO Encumber	PO Payment	Balance (CR)
						ACTIVITY/BALANCE (YEAR START)	-			61,681.01		429,470.57
01/09/2026	DJ 194	31417		11477	1608	SUSSEX COUNTY CLERK INV#68797 DECLARATION OF ENCUMBRANCE (ROSI)				(8.00)	8.00	429,470.57
01/21/2026	DJ 250	31543		11511	649	RECORDING HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, INV#84933 PREP NJDEPE REPORTS				(26.50)	26.50	429,470.57
01/27/2026	ENC	30140				(Reduced) FINAL DRAFT OF CFMP				(1,750.00)		431,220.57
01/27/2026	ENC	30140				(Reduced) FINAL DRAFT OF CFMP				(2,000.00)		433,220.57
01/31/2026	RJ 615					January 2026 Interest		1,473.42				434,693.99
02/04/2026	DJ 558	30140		11580	3535	GRACIE & HARRIGAN CONSULTING F INV#38597 FINAL DRAFT OF CFMP				(1,250.00)	1,250.00	434,693.99
02/05/2026	DJ 632	30140				Adjustment to Paid Line		(1,250.00)				435,943.99
02/06/2026	ENC	31783				INSPECT SITE PLAN/SUBDIVISION				260.00		435,683.99
02/06/2026	ENC	31807				ITEM #ISWOM1280 - ISTRARUSA 12U OPEN FRAME WA				305.44		435,378.55
02/09/2026	ENC	31832				12/31/25-01/04/26 - 2026 OPEN SPACE MEETING D				13.25		435,365.30
02/18/2026	DJ 658	31832		11643	1166	NEW JERSEY HERALD, INC. INV#0007527272 12/31/25-01/04/26 - 2026 OPEN SPACE MEETING D				(13.25)	13.25	435,365.30
02/18/2026	DJ 664	31783		11645	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, INV#85143 INSPECT SITE PLAN/SUBDIVISION				(260.00)	260.00	435,365.30
02/20/2026	ENC	31865				02/09/2026 - OPEN SPACE MEETING VIA ZOOM				150.00		435,215.30
02/20/2026	ENC	31869				FOREST STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY FOR TAMARACK, GLEN				225.00		434,990.30
02/28/2026	RJ 841					February 2026 Interest		1,322.28				436,312.58
03/05/2026	ENC	31807				(Reduced) HCESC CONTRACT #CAT2506R-P				(25.13)		436,337.71
03/12/2026	ENC	31953				ITEM #SIS452024SU - SIMPLY45 24P UNLOADED STP				25.13		436,312.58
03/18/2026	DJ 905	29585		11788	3880	DIACO CONTRACTING, INC. INV#DRAWDOWN #3 DRAWDOWN #3				(6,633.54)	6,633.54	436,312.58
03/18/2026	DJ 911	31865		11793	3535	GRACIE & HARRIGAN CONSULTING F INV#39218 02/09/2026 - OPEN SPACE MEETING VIA ZOOM				(150.00)	150.00	436,312.58

17-286-56-000-001 Reserve - Open Space

From 01/01/2026 to 05/26/2026

Date	Source	PO#	Contract#	Check #	Vendor #	Vendor/Description	Budget	Debit	Credit	PO Encumber	PO Payment	Balance (CR)
03/18/2026	DJ 912	31869		11793	3535	GRACIE & HARRIGAN CONSULTING F INV#39210 FOREST STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY FOR TAMARACK, GLEN PREP NJDEP REPORTS				(225.00)	225.00	436,312.58
03/31/2026	ENC	32023								82.50		436,230.08
03/31/2026	ENC	32040				ONSITE FIELD CHECK				543.75		435,686.33
03/31/2026	RJ 1043					March 2026 Interest		1,467.39				437,153.72
04/08/2026	DJ 1101	32023		11868	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, INV#85610 PREP NJDEP REPORTS				(82.50)	82.50	437,153.72
04/08/2026	DJ 1111	32040		11870	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, INV#85824 ONSITE FIELD CHECK				(543.75)	543.75	437,153.72
04/17/2026	ENC	31807				(Increased) ITEM #SIS452048U - SIMPLY45 48P U				80.16		437,073.56
04/17/2026	ENC	31953				To Cancel Balance as per AR - updated origina				(25.13)		437,098.69
04/30/2026	RJ 1438					April 2026 Interest		1,415.51				438,514.20
05/11/2026	ENC	31807				(Reduced) ITEM #SIS452048U - SIMPLY45 48P UNL				(39.00)		438,553.20
05/12/2026	ENC	32295				REMOVAL OF VARIOUS DEAD TREES FROM OPEN SPACE				16,850.00		421,703.20
05/20/2026	DJ 1516	31807		12067	1693	B&H FOTO ELECTRONICS CORP. INV#243842309 ITEM #ISWOM1280 - ISTRARUSA 12U OPEN FRAME WA DIACO CONTRACTING, INC.				(321.47)	321.47	421,703.20
05/20/2026	DJ 1523	29585		12074	3880	INV#DRAWDOWN #4 DRAWDOWN #4				(38,676.93)	38,676.93	421,703.20
05/26/2026	ENC	32334				05/15/2026 BRUSH DISPOSAL				954.63		420,748.57
							-	(1,250.00)	5,678.60	(32,540.34)	48,190.94	420,748.57
							-	(1,250.00)	5,678.60	29,140.67	48,190.94	420,748.57

OPEN SPACE MEETING – May 11, 2026

Members Present: Messrs. Sabatini, Dlugos, Duch, Bogardus, Esposito, Morytko, Mayor Rubenstein
Also present: Secretary Caitlin Phillips

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Morytko.

OS FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT:

Reserve for Open Space: \$437,098.69.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 13, 2026 minutes. Mr. Dlugos motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bogardus. All in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Trails Grant Updates

Mayor Rubenstein noted Hudson Farms may be able to help with the funding and work on the trail for the portion on their property. Mr. Dlugos said the grant is well written; it's clear what they're asking for and the map enhancements are useful. Mr. Morytko said it'll depend on how many applications the County gets. Mr. Dlugos said the Fire Department was flagging the area, and are not sure when the burn will be in the fall. They may have a conflict with the trail work and the flagging.

Trail Signage and Mapping

Mr. Esposito said the Historical Society may be able to help with this work. Mr. Dlugos said there's an interest in the history of trails, and there is upcoming work with the Highlands. Having better signage would help. They have Green Acres signs and bollards. He drove near Ridge and Valley Conservancy areas, and the signage was helpful, and includes area maps and historical information. The Environmental Commission applied for an ANJEC grant in 2024 for mapping updates. The Land Conservancy map would be comparable to what the Trails Conference offers. Mr. Dlugos provided the higher-end pricing for better material signs. Mr. Morytko said these would help with visibility, for people looking for this information. Mr. Esposito said the Historical Society wants higher-end signs so we don't need to replace them as often. Mr. Dlugos noted the price difference is only a few hundred dollars. He added that the Stag Lake group may help fund an area map because it'd help people know where the official trail is. Mr. Morytko said they can bring this to council if the Committee is supportive. Mr. Bogardus said they should be consistent with the sizes and logos. Mr. Sabatini said they did this years ago with an ANJEC grant. They had posts/plaques with descriptions of trails, with QR codes. He noted people ask for Byram Trail Maps at the office. He likes the idea of having as a printed document for the office, which can be updated with historical references. Mr. Dlugos said some people in the area don't know some trails around here exist. With the signs, they can indicate this is a township-owned nature preserve. Mayor Rubenstein said the first item should be unifying the information, like the website or app. They should get pdfs together for trail information. Mr. Sabatini said they should focus on what comes up if you search on the internet for trails in Byram. Mr. Dlugos said the design fees were built in to the estimate. Mr. Morytko said he's supportive of moving forward with this, and they can start the mapping portion. Mayor Rubenstein said a platform should be selected, and they should decide what signage and design they want to use. Mr. Sabatini asked who is managing the project. Mayor Rubenstein said it should be the town. Mr. Sabatini said it may get complicated with bidding. Mr. Esposito said the entire project is under \$13,000, which includes installation. Mr. Dlugos said it's about \$2,000 per sign. They are thinking of doing this for Cranberry Overlook, Tamarack, Briar Ridge, and Glenside Woods. They are also considering the Lubbers Run Trail. Mr. Morytko said they could ask the Land Conservancy for a proposal. He noted this is something they'd do even if funding they're aiming for isn't provided.

Forestry Updates

Mr. Dlugos said he's concerned about the barberry in Briar Ridge. They'll be doing herbicide and mechanical removal of barberry. He suggested giving Ms. Gracie a map of the areas and have her get companies to look at sites and give proposals. Mr. Sabatini said Ms. Gracie has done this before. They can tell her to do what she did last time. She came out with a general map of property boundaries and identified areas, and requested quotes for herbicide treatment and brought it back to Committee. After that the scope of work gets authorized.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Dlugos said he's in a group that helps promote recreation in the Highlands. They collected information and looked at maps, and Byram will be a hotspot because of highway access nearby. The Trails Conference is starting a program in conjunction with the Highlands Council. Byram seems to meet much of the criteria already. They showed a promotional page for a trail town, depicting trails and businesses. Mr. Morytko said Waterloo Village works well with this. Mr. Dlugos said he'd like to connect trails from Tamarack to the Wespy property. He noted he was told we likely wouldn't get this, because of liability issues. Two ideas were offered to him, including a history trail. They could partner with Hudson Farms, and build a viewing platform on the tunnel. They'd get fencing to resolve liability issues. They could also bring the trail over the center of the tunnel, so people don't go through. They would need more access to nearby property, and this would be steeper. Mayor Rubenstein said they have a good contact at the DOT. They could speak to them and note that having a marked trail may help keep people in safe areas. They should ask them first before looking at other options. Mr. Esposito said at CO Johnson Park, they could have a platform area near the gorge. Mr. Sabatini said the fencing is roughly the property line, and there are stakes in the area.

Mr. Sabatini said a Boy Scout worked on a project at the Johnson dam, including benches and a trail clean-up. Mr. Esposito asked about the trail crossing for the Andover Mohawk area. Mr. Sabatini said the County put those in. When a crosswalk is added, the engineer needs to sign off on them. The town's engineer isn't okay doing this because of sight line issues.

Mr. Dlugos said there was a nature photography class at the schoolhouse, and some people at this event expressed interest in joining the Trailkeepers. They could do a second class mainly outside. Ms. Phillips mentioned Mr. Dlugos' message about hemlock trees. Mr. Dlugos said the NJDEP is planning to sell woolly adelgid-resistant hemlocks in the fall, which could help with restoring areas in Byram.

Mr. Dlugos said the Recreation Department has spoken to him about the idea of trail passports for families. The Environmental Commission held an Earth Day event on a nature trail. They scrubbed algae off the signs and removed invasive species. They're looking to propose an annual award for Community Stewards. There is a person in town that's great at removing invasive species, and they'd like to give them the award for being an inspiration to others to start getting involved with this as well.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

No public was present.

ADJOURN – Motion by Mr. Dlugos, second by Mayor Rubenstein, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. All members in favor. Motioned carried.