

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 28, 2016 Agenda

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: Dec. 21, 2015

Correspondence and updates:

- EC photos on the website – will start adding EC photos up, Thanks James for the ones you sent from last year Arbor Day.
- Steep slope ordinance: Will bring a copy of the ordinance to the meeting.
- Soil ordinance: Will bring a copy of the ordinance to the meeting.
- Ongoing: Community Forestry Management Plan: 5 year (2015 – 2019) management plan distributed to keep up to date with programs and requirements that will maintain Byram's status with the DEP's NJ State Forestry Services.
- 2015 Environmental Commission Achievements – to read and proof, for the Byram Township Annual Report

Business:

- Tilcon annual quarry licensing application: Review and list any comments from last months meeting with James regarding soil reclamation, wetlands letter interpretation, stream encroachment, and reinforcement of soil ordinance. Tilcon's renewal hearing is on February 16th, we need to submit any comments before then. EC is welcome to attend the hearing.
- Update Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean! Postcard: Cathy reviewing postcard.
- Membership: Article describing open seats was published in the Herald, Thursday Jan. 14th. 1350 flyers were also given to both the Intermediate and Lakes schools for "backpack" distribution.
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant for Open Space Stewardship Projects was announced January 15th. Applications are now being accepted, the due date being April 1, 2016. Donna will bring details regarding the grant to the January meeting. Suggest we get Patty Poff & students involved.
- Share the Woods signs – Address the issue of posting signs on hiking trails letting people know that during certain seasons hunting is allowed and hikers should be mindful of this.
- Recreational Trails Grant – Spoke with Brandi Chapman of the New Jersey Trails Program regarding 2016 Recreational Trail Grants. She added my email to a distribution list which will automatically inform us of grants, webinars, and seminars as they become available.
- Environmental Commission Training – Three half-day sessions are being offered in March designed for both new and experienced EC'ers. These sessions will include info on networking and natural resources in our community. Will pass out info at the meeting.

Planning Board Applications:

- Jared Auchter – 25 Lake Dr., set-back variances for generator installation
- George Westefeld and Sharon McCarroll – 88 Birch Pkwy., requesting a variance from the 50' minimum setback for boathouse renovation

Trails:

- Blazes with QR code to be added to trailhead sign posts in spring
- 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail
- *Spring*: Brookwood Park trail maintenance
- *Spring*: Johnson Lake clean up (add bench)
- Geocaching – idea to get residents familiar with trails, EC could create a geocaching treasure /scavenger hunt (spring 2016)

Forestry:

- No Net Loss Grant – Several township properties were identified for possible planting designs. Met with Township staff, Cory Stoner, and Matt Morris (Township Engineer and Landscape Arch.) January 22. Matt will visit sites and put together an initial design.
- Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager.

Expenditures and budget: The following membership renewals have been submitted to finance:

- Membership renewal for NY-NJ Trail Conference: \$50
- Membership renewal for ANJEC: \$395
- Musconetcong Watershed Association: \$100
- Arbor Day: \$15

Reports from committees:

- Musconetcong River: Michelle
- Open Space Committee: Michelle.
- Council: Dave Gray

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

Adjourn.