

# BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## March 24, 2016 Agenda

Call to order and attendance.

Minutes for approval: Feb. 25, 2016

### **Correspondence and updates:**

- Ongoing: Steep slope ordinance: Emailed a copy of the ordinance 240 29.2 to all members.
- 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 – Approved and posted on the website – in the Municipal Budget Information section - 2015 Annual Report
- NJ conservation Foundation – is sponsoring a hike at the Franklin Parker Preserve, Chatsworth NJ, (about a 2 hour drive to south Jersey) on 4/2/16. “Explore New Jersey Conservation Foundation's largest preserve in the heart of the Pine Barrens. This will be a 7-mile energetic hike through the region, and may include scrambling and hiking through wet areas. Be sure to wear waterproof footwear. The hike will begin at 9am, with a starting location emailed to participants after registration. Lunch will not be included, so please come prepared with plenty of food and water! The cost of the hike is free, but we are offering a discounted membership to New Jersey Conservation Foundation when you sign-up.” Pre-registration is required. Contact 903-997-0725 or visit njconservation.org.
- Vernal Pool Walk at Waterloo – Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> , both at 7 p.m. Kelly Treice of Conserve Wildlife will do a short, ¼ mile, hike to explore a vernal pool. Registration is required. Flyer emailed.
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – National Trails Day – Discuss enlisting volunteers for Johnson Lake/Cranberry Overlook/or other Township trail for a Trails Day clean-up project.

### **Business:**

- Update Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean! Postcard: Instead of a postcard, what about a pamphlet, will bring example to March meeting
- Membership: Steve and Nora’s resumes approved by council.
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant - Application due April 1, 2016. Joe, Doris, Donna met March 4, 2016 to discuss applying for the 2016 Open Space Stewardship Grant for Environmental Commissions. We would like to use this grant money (\$1500 if awarded) to update and redesign our website Trails Guide to be more interactive, as well as create a venue (subscription/email blast/social media) that lets the public know about upcoming community events and outdoor activities (i.e. trail maintenance days, tree dedications, 2016 – 50 miler, Walking Wednesdays, community gardens, etc.). We’ve received a quote from Navitend of \$2000 to update forms and codes, but it would be up to volunteers/township employees to input initial content (trail descriptions, details) and specific events. Township would fund fees over \$1500. Please come with ideas of how we can make the website more user friendly for outdoor enthusiasts.

- Share the Woods signs – Donna to contact ANJEC to see how they handle hiking/hunting trails
- Rabies Clinic volunteers needed April 9<sup>th</sup>, 9AM – 12Noon, thanks Cathy for volunteering.
- Amphibian Crossing – Ongoing through March - Kelly Treice, [Kelly.treice@conservewildlifenj.org](mailto:Kelly.treice@conservewildlifenj.org), Conserve Wildlife continues to look for community and political support for funding the installation of amphibian crossing tunnels along Waterloo Rd. Thanks Michelle for volunteering and reporting to EC!
- Arbor Day Celebration – Talked about holding tree dedications (Scott Daneilson/Dan Florenza) and/or a Conserve Wildlife presentation. Patti Poff has arranged for Conserve Wildlife to come to Byram and talk about Birds of Prey on April 23, 2016. Looking for funding from town or EC. Need to do a formal vote at the March meeting if all are in favor. The presentation involves Bald Eagles, Osprey, Falcons, American Kestrels, Hawks, Owls and their habitat, diet, nesting, behavior, conservation and “other cool facts”. The presentation cost is \$200 and the public is invited. This would also fulfill one of our guidelines for Community Forestry Program.
- Any interest in partnering with Recreation Committee to organize a 2016 – 50 Miler summer long Hike? This hike would involve residents signing up and doing short weekly treks on Township trails, beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>, ending October 15<sup>th</sup>. Residents will chart and keep track of their own miles (pedometer, fit bit, etc.). Dinner/award celebration at the end of October at a local restaurant – open for suggestions regarding charting miles and awards/prizes.
- Any interest in Vernal Pool (maintenance) and Butterfly Garden creation – both sites on school grounds, both would be working with Patti Poff’s env. groups

### **Planning Board Applications:**

- Brian Church – Bl. 317 L. 20.01 - 4 Raccoon Trail addition

### **Trails:**

- Jo-Anne Beliveau, Sparta resident, visited Township Office to let us know how much she enjoys our trails. She and her buddies have hiked every trail and they’re interested in volunteering for any work/maintenance days we schedule. She reports our trails “need lots of work”. I’ll start a volunteer email list for spring trail work days. This would be a good example for the ANJEC grant – to be able to email blast subscribers/volunteers about maintenance days.
- Ongoing - Blazes with QR code to be added to trailhead sign posts in spring
- Ongoing - 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail. Also, need to check the Lee Hill Rd./Ranger Tr. site (Boyd property, right hand side) for trail post which was either never installed, or disappeared.
- *Spring*: Brookwood Park trail maintenance
- *Spring*: Johnson Lake clean up (add bench)
- Report from resident that there are downed trees at the Cranberry Overlook Trail that need to be cleared. Adolf was informed, maybe EC can check out early spring.
- Geocaching – idea to get residents familiar with trails, EC could create a geocaching treasure /scavenger hunt/hike (spring 2016)

### **Forestry:**

- Ongoing - 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.
- Ongoing - Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager.

**Expenditures and budget:** The following membership have been renewed:

- Vote on funding \$200 for Conserve Wildlife Birds of Prey Arbor Day celebration
- So far, we've spent \$565 for membership dues (ANJEC, MWA, NYNJ Trail Conference, Arbor Day, & Shade Tree of our \$2600 budget.

**Reports from committees:**

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

Open for comments, suggestions, questions.

**Adjourn.**