

XIII. List of Stakeholder Engagement



*Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Stakeholder Outreach Meetings*

Organization	Name
Environmental/Landmarks Advisory Committee	Donna Fett
Salt Shakers	Susan Wise
Byram Historical Society	Frank Xavier Gonzalez
DPW Superintendent	Michael Orgera
Youth Field Hockey Team	Jackie Beck
Lenape Valley Patriots Football	Dave Kraus
Jersey Off-Road Bike Association (JORBA)	Tom Hennigan Marc Perez Eric Duch
Superintendent of Allamuchy State Park	Joshua Osowski
New York- New Jersey Trail Conference	Jeremy Apgar Ed Goodell Peter Dolan
Lenape Valley High School District Superintendent	Paul DiRupo
Byram Consolidated School District Superintendent	Bryan Hensz
Lenape Valley Soccer	Chris Palermo
Stanhope Administrator	Brian McNeilly
Netcong Administrator	Ralph Blakeslee
Andover Administrator	Diana Francisco
Byram Township Council	Scott Olson David Gray
Waterloo Village	Andrea Proctor
Hobb Engler Little League	Bill Brown
Byram Township Mayor	Alex Rubenstein
Lake Lackawanna Investment Corporation	Shawn Steffens
Lenape Valley Basketball Association	Mike Manzi
Lenape Valley Junior Patriots Wrestling Club	Adam Pacese
Men's Softball	Scott Price
Byram School District Athletic Director	Robert Cline
Lenape Valley Lacrosse	Matt Fowler

Byram Township Open Space & Recreation Plan Interview Notes

Who: Bryan Hensz, superintendent of Byram School District
Alice – Business Administrator
Date: May 6th, 2019
How: In person
Interviewer: Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto
Contact: hensz.bryan@byramschools.org

Notes:

- Enrollment of 800-815
 - High school: 705 for 9 through 12th, project 600 for 2022/2023
- Sports
 - Soccer-full (one field)
 - Track and field
 - No baseball/ softball
 - Field Hockey
 - Two smaller diamonds
- Agreements – Janet coordinated, COI
 - No fees charged
- Gyms for both schools
 - Recreation program -whenever available but maxing out
 - Basketball, wrestling (mat storage), soccer
 - ___ during weekend
 - No education programs held here
- Recreation director used to do coordination before calling school, which would make school scheduling much easier
- Overseeing two years ago
- Need plan to rotate fields – soccer usage wears them out

Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	July 2nd, 2019
Participants:	Frank Pinto, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino, Ralph Blakeslee
Subject:	PRP Updates

Discussion:

- Three main parks
 - DiRenzo Park – by lake, children’s park with playground equipment and gazebo, restrooms
 - Arbolino Park – large facility that is under renovation (eliminating a tennis court and making it a basketball court, repurposing old basketball court with outdoor exercise equipment); baseball/softball field, basketball court, two tennis courts, picnic area, restrooms, idea for ADA compliant kayak launch for Lake Musconetcong and pedestrian bridge
 - New lights
 - Refurbish baseball/ softball
 - Indian Field (Roxbury)—soccer, lacrosse, baseball; concession stand and bathrooms
 - Not being used as much as it could be, probably needs some funding for improvements
- Lacrosse Issue
 - Held festival without permission from council
 - Whack a car- wrecked car, for \$5 take a sledgehammer and smash the car
 - Found out about wrecked car because left it there
 - Field use issue – complaints about upkeep and “attitude issue”
 - Often didn’t ask permission and aggressive member of organization
 - Recreation commission pulled the plug
- Recreation commission
 - Field scheduling with application
 - Concerts in the park and kid’s concert
 - Bus trips into the city – Broadway shows
 - Coordinate town-wide garage sale
 - Coordinate Netcong Day and 5k race
 - Work closely with municipal alliance
 - Sponsor movies in the park
 - Co-sponsor dances at the school
 - Holiday parade in December
 - Tai Chi in the park
 - Trunk or Treat
 - About \$1,100 budget each year
 - Not responsible for maintenance
- Had shared camp with Byram that was organized, when Byram had full time recreational director
- Now, no shared programs with Byram

- When there were, almost all of the programs took place in Byram because Byram has most of the facilities to accommodate – challenging for some folks to get over
- If wanted to do tri-town summer camp for 2020, need to start planning now
- Need money for facilities
 - Can get grants but there are long-term maintenance concerns
 - On a very tight budget in Netcong
 - No issues putting together programs with Byram but thinks it might have to come from the ground up
 - Perhaps an ad hoc, three-town recreational committee
 - Look at Lake Musconetcong Planning Board – enabled by each municipality and coordinates rec programs (use as case study)
- Discussions about combining school system with Byram and Stanhope
 - Netcong foundation for after school programs
- No open space tax
- Ralph is borough administrator, zoning officer, public agency compliance officer, etc.
- Working on lake to trails program to Stanhope and Byram
 - Completed survey and wrote comment about opportunities for trail development
 - Netcong considers itself a transportation hub because of train station
 - Don't have trails in Netcong but have concept maps – which will include sidewalks
 - Want to get hooked into the rail trail
- Anticipate population explosion in town due to new rental units
- No bed and breakfast in town

Next Steps:

Who	What
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Byram Township Open Space & Recreation Plan Interview Notes

Who: Mr. Chris Palermo
Date: April 22, 2019
How: Phone Interview
Interviewer: Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto
Contact: Chris Palermo, President
Lenape Valley Soccer Club
908-229-3552
palermo2000@yahoo.com

Notes:

Enrollment: 125 in Rec, Travel about 125 as well. 250 at any one season.
Five Year history of enrollment: **Chris can provide after doing some data cruching.**

Fields they use:
Tamarack Park primarily
CO Johnson (on and off) Fields 6, 7 & 8
Byram Intermediate School – Outdoor fields and Gym indoors

Byram, Stanhope and Netcong – Most activity is done in Byram. A little in Stanhope.
95% of activities in Byram.

Breakdown: **Chris can provide us a breakdown of participants based on the school they are registered. This will give us a good town by town registration.**

Field Conditions:
COJ – Field 8 wet, yes.

Mohawk Ridge is even worse. Even days after it's not playable. Chris doesn't understand what is happening in terms of drainage. (Likely poor soils that don't drain well). ATVs on fields is an issue. Really out in middle of nowhere so hard to patrol and prevent such vandalism issues.

Tamarack Park no complaints.

Middle School – No complaints. WYSIWG.

Porta Johns – Provided by Byram at every facility. League MUST provide facilities. So Byram providing them saves the program a lot of money on rentals.

Number of Fields – Sufficient? Pretty much yes.

CO Johnson – Football practice/lacrosse practice nights. Sometimes gets tough when you have multiple sports. But not too many issues.

Club #'s are shrinking. Moving to Academy teams verse town team.
3 sized fields:

7 v 7 – Tamarack and CO J Field #??

9 v 9 – CO 6 and Mohawk Ridge

11 v 11 – ????

When does Spring season start?

First games were held before fields opened in Byram. They worked with Stanhope to get access. Byram opens their fields later than other towns. Wet weather closures. All pre-season this past year was done at Stanhope before Byram opened its fields.

Equipment:

Goals – League buys them, then once they are on town park, the Twp owns/controls them. Would be ideal if they had goals for each field. They do not have enough goals now. Requires moving from field to field. Nets are getting older too.

Field Paint / Striping – one of biggest expenses they have. Byram DPW lines the football fields, but soccer fields must be lined by soccer program, not the DPW.

Fees: No fees charged whatsoever. Fee for Gym for indoor use. Custodian fee. Regional HS is expensive.

Wish List:

Lights!

Big expense. Football has permanent lights,

They pay for 3 portable lights for COJ.

Can't put lights at Mohawk or Tamarack.

Permanent lights at COJ would be a huge savings for the clubs.

Lights Rental – Rent from Early Sept to end of Nov. 3 months, 3 to 4 are rented. Around \$4K or \$5K for the season. They are loud, carbon monoxide exhaust (dangerous).

It would be nice to have a concession stand. Bias towards football.

Storage:

Shed across from Muni Building. Holes in roof, equipment gets wet. Mice. Requires club money. Better location or storage in the parks would be terrific. Fieldhouse – tons of space used by football.

Sheds – 8 x 8 shed would be more than enough.

Benches: No permanent benches are at the fields. He needs to supply player benches scissor style.

Turf – would be a benefit, good for practices, but traditionally, soccer should be played on grass.

High School – they were charging \$250/hour. Only would play big games there. The Town we live in, being charged \$500 for a 2-hour game rubs people the wrong way.

Other Towns in League:

Morris County League

Chris is going to start a youth tennis program next year and may be reaching out to Joe S to discuss related to court access.

Byram Township Open Space & Recreation Plan Interview Notes

Who: Paul DiRupo (Superintendent) and Robert Cline (Athletic Director) – Lenape Valley Regional High School
Date: May 6th, 2019
How: In person
Interviewer: Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto
Contact:

Notes:

- Existing Outdoor
 - Football uses fields, soccer
 - Junior lacrosse fields – not taken care of
 - 3 tennis courts
- Existing indoor
 - Need more time/ space
 - March before turf, lacrosse
 - 3 towns – not all shared programs
- Maintenance and improvements
 - Baseball and softball will be turfed, permanent fence for softball
 - Turfed football – 5 years
 - \$1.7 million without lights
- Board of Ed policy for field usage
 - Custodian and lights
 - Corey Stoner – Aerial
- Enrollment has declined by 150

Byram PRP – Lenape Valley Lacrosse Conference Call 7/3/19

Matt Fowler, Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto, Genevieve Tarino

- Were using Indian Field (owned by Roxbury but rented by Netcong)
 - Used for last 5-7 years but no longer
 - Utilized main large field for games and festival
 - Used to store goals there
 - Issues with previous president carried over—trash disposal at the site
 - Would use it if it is maintained properly
- 75% of games are played on high school turf field ~ \$35-40/hr
 - Can only play on Saturdays after 4
 - Custodian, clean up, and lighting fees
 - Other games at C.O. Johnson
- Program covers Byram, Netcong, Stanhope, Hopatcong
 - If a town doesn't have a program, they are welcomed to play in the nearest district
 - Pulled 20 kids from Hopatcong
 - K-8 boys and girls teams, 3 teams for boys and 2 teams for girls, clinic for k-2 that is co-ed
 - Enrollment of 125 kids and increasing
- League doesn't pay for insurance, parents do
 - Clinic is free because of this
 - Pulling kids from baseball/ t-ball
- Full team is 25 kids
- Equipment is sometimes stored at C.O. Johnson but no access at the moment so everything is sitting in Matt's garage
 - Wants to pay for a storage facility
 - Could request town to put a shed at C.O. Johnson
 - Coaches and or parents line the fields
- Would rather play at C.O. Johnson
 - Kids like it better there
 - Attracts other potential players
 - Spring rain is biggest issue in Byram
- Other issues
 - No working bathrooms at C.O. Johnson
 - No recreational director
 - Would rather have lights than turf
 - Need improvements to announcer's box
 - Spends \$3,000 for 3 days to rent Mount Olive's bubble for practice

Byram PRP- Lake Lackawanna Investment Corporation Conference Call 7/3/19

Shawn Steffens, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino

- Private lake but is run as closely as a non-profit
 - Don't generally turn a profit but did last year for selling land – private purchase behind the clubhouse
 - Allow a limited number of outside memberships
 - All those within the Lake Lackawanna deed can join but are not required
- Mostly volunteers running the lake
- Lake itself is about 110 acres
 - Around the lake is about 250 acres (not including the lake)
 - ~360 acres in total
- Membership
 - Fish, boat, hunt, hike, ATVs
 - Between 6-10 outsiders with memberships
 - Would cap outside memberships at some point
 - About \$450 a year for an outside membership for a family
- Golf course is leased out (almost always the case)
 - public
- generally open to discussing new opportunities
- swim team is open to all Byram residents, Netcong, Stanhope
 - 50 or so kids on team (up from single digits a few years before)
 - New lanes, new docks
 - Free for members, don't know price for non-members
- Resident of Lake Lackawanna for last 8 years
 - Not really involved in township recreation
 - Took our survey
 - Perhaps lights at C.O. Johnson
 - Young kids so don't really know what the needs are
- Shared programs
 - Kids Triathlon – Byram Township and Lake Lackawanna
 - Non-profit fundraisers at the lake
 - Don't want shared programs on a daily basis, but perhaps a couple of times a month (i.e. kayak races)
- Has to consult with other volunteers about opening up the lake to fishers, kayakers, etc

Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	April 26, 2019
Participants:	Tom Hennigan, Eric Dutch, Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto, Genevieve Tarino
Subject:	JORBA Stakeholder Conference Call

Discussion:

- Comment from riders
 - Parking area issues: unmarked spaces
- Rerouting the Highlands Trail?
 - Glen is NYNJTC Highlands Chair – invite him (through Peter)
 - Should JORBA reps come? Could
- Community Trails Systems, specifically bicycle driven
 - Vermont developed first eco-tourism model, another one in Arkansas
 - Host workshops for planners, cost estimates, economic benefits
 - Trail Labs workshops – International Mountain Biking Association
- Believe in advocating for multi-use trails
- Want to make Byram a host community for hikers/ bikers for state 145-mile trail
 - Tom has approached regional parks manager for Allamuchy: Joshua Halmusky; also head of Kittatinny State Park
 - Land Management Preview Process
 - Sterling Forest: through NYNJTC and AmeriCorps – more expensive per foot to build this way than through trail crew
- Sustainable Trails: reduce erosion
- JORBA works with professional trail builders
 - Can sub contract the work out: Avid Trails (based out of NJ but work all over country); Professional Trails Builders Organization
 - Also volunteer organization, so can use them for work but takes longer
 - Eric is dedicated JORBA volunteer
- Apps instead of paper maps
 - Straba
 - Trail Forks – specifically help municipal facilities to map trails <https://www.trailforks.com/>
 - User submitted trails
 - Designate trails based on use type
 - Keeps heat map of those hiking trails
 - Hotspots for trail parking / trail heads
- Emergency response
 - National Grid: UTM grid for first responders to locate exactly (two sets of numbers)
- MTB Project <https://www.mtbproject.com/>
- NJ bikers allowed on roads, but 206 crossing is nerve-wracking to most

- Gold standard is bike lane
- Could use cross walks and lights, where appropriate – time to traffic lights
- Flashing sign or trail markings
- From Sussex Branch to Tamarack Park
- Need for mountain biking trailhead center for more riders to start and end ride in Byram?
 - Could have specific amenities at trail head
 - Want something nice to eat and cold beer after their ride – can develop a lot of business this way
 - Maybe create lot at Salt Shakers rather than Waterloo Road
- Most mountain bikers bring their own bikes to the trails
 - But would broach this with local businesses – Sussex Bike Shop (closed at beginning of year) but have Kittatinny shop with rentals
- Requirements for ride centers
 - Amenities and accommodations range from camping to hotels, restaurants, etc...
 - Places with highest destinations tend to be Vancouver, Breking Ridge, Copper Harbor (Michigan)
 - Bike specific trails (different from multi use trails) and need to have a lot of them
 - Lack gravity biking (served by Mountain Creek)
 - Changing rooms/ centers to change clothes after biking and before drinking
- Families are now mountain biking together – North American Interscholastic Cycling League
 - Races
 - Junior high and high school participants growing
- Appropriate surface for multi-use?
 - Natural- less expensive
 - But depends on the specifications that you build the trail to
 - US Forest Service Trails Classifications
 - Design differently in front than in back – accommodate strollers/ casual use then progress to natural surfaces
- Want every trail below 10% grade
- Also want
 - More maintenance
 - More access
 - Should always have multi-use trails – should be rule, not exception
- Want us to keep local resident users in mind, as well as eco-tourism
- Biggest hurdle to bike trail building isn't money, its getting permission

Next Steps:

Who	What
FP, BS, GT	Explore resources provided by Tom and Eric

Interview with Mayor Rubenstein - Byram Township PRP

August 14th, 2019

- Kids are involved in town recreation
- Turf fields seem unnecessary
 - Don't change the sporting experience
 - Possibly unhealthy
 - COJ 100-yard field issues of placement, funding for long-term maintenance, especially when the high school field is available and the 80-yard field is regularly used
- Field house
 - Wants functioning bathrooms and facility
 - Should exploit the field house to the full extent—recreation committee meetings, concession stand, cheerleading practice, yoga, etc.
 - Structure is fine but lack of maintenance is the issue
 - Township needs to make the point that they own the facility and will allow leagues to use it, but reserve the right to remove groups that are misusing it
- No real surveys or site plans of town parks
- Parks could have more “creature comforts”
- Field lights
 - Supportive but wants to know cost-benefit
 - Temporary lights are diesel powered, unhealthy and expensive
- Trails
 - Need to be better mapped and marketed
 - Not necessarily supportive of blazing new trails, but trail connections are reasonable
 - Marketing is “junk”, especially the website and its featured map
 - Doubtful that Byram trails will be regional attraction but perhaps is for the “weekend warrior”
 - No need to make the trails ADA accessible, don't pave them
- Doesn't want to spend money to create any more parks, just need to spend funds on maintaining those that exist
- Idea for building a pavilion at COJ for events

Hobb Engler Byram Township Little League Conference Call 6/7/19

Bill Brown, Frank Pinto, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino

- Use C.O. Johnson Field and the school fields for t-ball (by intermediate school on Mansfield Drive) but not the ones by the police station
- Program just serves Byram
 - Talks to merge with Stanhope
 - Enrollment is slowly going down, lose about 10 kids each year
 - Have about 190 kids this year
 - Boys and girls, though most girls only sign up for t-ball and then transition to softball
- 5 years old to 16 years old
- Primarily play against teams from other towns
 - But t-ball generally plays teams from town
- Want t-ball field at C.O., only need one
 - And need field upgrades at C.O. – need dirt and clay
 - Would like field lights
 - Hobb Engler are responsible for maintaining the field but need permission from the town to make adjustments
 - Town has been more helpful this year with landscaping
- Don't need any other equipment at this time
- Want improvements to C.O. Johnson field house
 - Kitchen
 - Floors
- Weather permitting, fields open on April 1st
 - April to June 15th
 - Then Allstars go from June to end of July but can go until August: about 80 kids
- Ideal world, would like
 - T-ball field at C.O.
 - Fields 1, 2, 3 with more dirt
 - Upgraded field house
- Thinks Doris Flynn is doing great job as interim recreation director, but thinks that they should fill that role full time again
 - League scheduling – everyone meets at beginning of spring and fall and puts in request for use times, then mass schedule sent to all teams/programs
 - Field use reporting
- Losing kids to the other sports programs – lacrosse and dwindling town population

Project:	Waterloo Village
Date:	May 31, 2019
Participants:	Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto, Andrea Proctor, Genevieve Tarino, Rebecca Proctor (works at Summit Parks)
Subject:	Waterloo Village as Regional Attraction

Discussion:

- Waterloo Village could be used as a regional attraction for recreation for both kids and adults
 - Look at Summit, NJ as an example of what it could be: town heavily focuses on recreation (music nights, movie nights, camp, swimming, pride celebrations, etc.)
 - Right now, kids in Byram don't have much to do if they're not part of a lake community or organized sport
 - School age population is declining, most of the population in NJ moving to cities
 - Byram **NEEDS** a recreation coordinator. Problem is, Byram does not have the population to support more facilities and better parks (8,000 people vs 30,000 people in nearby towns with decent recreational departments). Their open space tax cannot financially support the demands
 - Really understaffed and underfunded
 - Currently attract ~20,000 school kids a year, and between 50-60,000 people a year (including school trips, weddings, events, weekends)
 - No demographics on visitors, but have a count (also count weddings because have to submit every month)
 - Ben suggests multiple day attractions to be an economic development hub
 - Places to eat nearby (Andrea recommends):
 - Salt
 - Franks (pizza)
 - Bell's mansion – connected to the canal
 - Could use more information to give to visitors about local attractions
 - Marketing:
 - Memorial Day picture filter on FB- "I love NJ parks"
 - Waterloo Village Historic Site FB and Waterloo Village Instagram
- Concerts can be held here, but it is difficult to do so with current conditions
 - Concert Field is in Allamuchy State Park
 - The foundation that used to run the place had a lot of ties to the music industry, so concert tickets were reasonably priced, but since the park department now runs it, they don't get any ticket deals
 - The concert field's max capacity is 5,000 cars (three fields: quarry, overflow lot, main parking lot) x ~2.5 people per car
 - It's an awkward size. If local band draws 1,000 people, the space isn't filled up and makes the band look like a bust
 - International trade zone (adds ~3,000 parking spots)
 - Offsite parking and shuttle service? In old days, parked and camped up and down Waterloo Road
 - No drinking is allowed
 - You need a waiver, then ABC, then double walled beer garden, wristbands and tabs, security company
 - Or can set up a lease with a catering company

- Two companies already worked with them/can be used
 - This would give Waterloo passive income
 - (Josh, the superintendent, is open to this)
- Artists that want to perform here have to fill out a 40-page special use application, which is too onerous
- Waterloo so popular because nostalgia for concert, poetry festival (stopped 2008-2009)
- Andrea wants to take one of these buildings and make it into a tribute (exhibit) to the foundation that used to run the land – have people donate their old tickets, flyers, etc.
 - Lollapalooza, Bob Dylan, Beach Boys, etc. all performed here before
 - Doesn't have the resources, time, or money to pull this off though
 - Kennedy White House wallpaper
- Byram also has other facilities for concerts, don't just have to be at Waterloo – bring beer and food, people will show up even if the event costs money
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays are popular as to not interfere with weekend plans
- Would be great place to set up kayaking, but there are some obstacles
 - Kayaking is allowed on the canal/river and kayak programs have been done here before
 - Problems is, vehicles can't get in because the dam is right there, so people have to haul their kayaks/boats to the water, which not everyone can do
 - Kittatinny has an official boat launch area, one should be established at Quarry Lake too
 - It might be easier to let a company come in and establish on at Quarry Lake
 - Waterloo Village owns all the land from River Road to Elsie's Tavern, so it might be really nice to have people kayak down and then eat lunch at Elsie's
 - Should also build a parking lot past the dam (maybe under Rt 80), operations wouldn't be interrupted at all
 - Would need to identify where people can park and where they can launch from (between Waterloo Dam and Saxon)
 - Check with Musconetcong Watershed Association for river information, launch sites, routes, etc.
 - Could use house at entrance to Jeff Lake (owned by Waterloo Village) as a check-in station or ranger station
 - It could be a visitor's information station // automated kiosk and bathroom – most people want to talk to someone
 - House next door (to right if looking at canal) was tenant house for laborers, could use it
- Other water activities → pool/swimming hole?
 - Want more options for trails in Byram, better marketing, better/more parking, don't know which lakes are public other than Cranberry Lake
 - Need to focus on the water aspect – create a swimming place – Hopatcong fills up too quickly and the rest are private membership, Tomahawk is always full (since it has a waterpark)
 - Right off Rt 80, so that's a plus
 - Turn field across from Municipal Building into pool (lol)
 - Swartswood- under-utilized, not enough lifeguards, closed most of the time (but not in Byram)
 - Too much trash at Quarry Lake (more than the staff can handle)
- Could maybe do a “water trail” and map out this area to tie it into the larger context of Byram Parks/ Trails
- People discovered that it's a great place to walk dogs, bike, and hike → Trail system
 - Make a variety of trails with varying difficulty levels – attract people and make it interesting enough for them to want to come back
 - Connect with newly available Kellogg properties
 - Stephens/Allamuchy brochure has Waterloo trails included – **not printed, Andrea can email to us**
 - Also has map that shows just Waterloo with lengths
 - **New trailhead is mapped by Andrea – she can share**
 - Can be used during the winter for activities too → snowshoeing and cross-country skiing allowed here

- Bridge over dam is out of service, but there is a foot path to get through Rt 280
- Byram as a host community on the Highlands Trail
 - If you have a week, can do the Highlands Trail (7-8 days) for 145 miles
 - AT takes about 4-6 months
- Really active followers, hard to track/ask for RSVPs because people are VERY interested. Janet (“caretaker”) is the only office worker, can’t answer 300 calls for a hike
 - Other staff are “resource interpretive specialists”
- Lake Lackawanna will not give up property nearby/ their trails for a network of trails because people do four wheeling there/other stuff
- Farmer’s market
 - Tried to have a farmer’s market at Waterloo – coordinated with farmer to have market in parking lot, he organized all of it
 - Didn’t get any other farmers to join
 - If bring more farmers, would be a huge attraction (300 cars came in)
 - Charged \$5 parking
 - Food trucks pay Waterloo for Christmas in July
 - Bone Frog having event on property, paying special use permit fee, daily set up and breakdown fee, they pay the food trucks
 - Kim does events coordination
 - Saturdays- charge \$5 parking because 15-20 staff here
 - Sundays don’t charge because maybe 5 staff members
- Was also previously used for other activities too
 - Christmas in July event was very popular
 - Food trucks paid Waterloo to be there
 - Halloween event is also VERY big (had to take off last year because it got too big)
 - Reached capacity, but people parked on the road and kept coming anyway
 - There was only one police officer
 - Handed out 30,000 pieces of candy
 - No Memorial Day, July 4th, similar holiday events held because people tend to want to be at the beach instead
 - Canal Society of NJ (non-profit) holds a museum event every last weekend in June (this year June 22nd) here since they have a museum on site (contact Joe)
 - This year, opening canal buildings and Lenape buildings on Saturdays
 - If it does well, will open these buildings on Saturdays and Sundays
 - During the week: wild edible plants walk, seniors in shape, full moon hikes
 - Advertised on Facebook and fills out
 - Usually 50 people max
 - First day hike (Jan 1) attracts 300 people
 - Don’t track where they come from
- Want more partnerships with non-profits
 - Conserve wildlife does vernal pool program here
- Byram Day could be a concert with fireworks – Byram day used to be held at C.O. Johnson, used to be huge event
 - Right now, organizations have tents and that’s it
 - Could do many concerts multiple days of the week
 - Summer festival, carnival, Octoberfest
- Waterloo village as regional attraction
 - Lady at office recruited 6-7 events here: 3-day concert, food truck event
 - 19 historic houses, 25 staff
 - Andrea is mostly education and programming

- Can look at schedule to tell us who's coming
- \$16,000 grant for trail improvements across the river
- \$3 mill grant for three of these houses
- School groups out at 2, weddings start at 4-5 pm
- Not all of buildings on site are originally from the site, but most are (not the sawmill)
 - Barn built in 1978
 - Lenape village recreated in 1989
 - Cabin deconstructed from Franklin TWP and reassembled
 - Sawmill rebuilt unrealistically
 - Seymour Smith's house (where we're meeting): made money through their show, land
 - Last house to have been built in Waterloo 1876
 - Next door was 1760
- New director of NJ State Parks and Forests= Olivia Glenn (governor appointed)
 - Old director Mark Texel – now demoted to Assistant Director
 - Olivia gets stuff done, excited
 - Ask Josh if he's ok with more econ dev
 - Don't exactly have superintendent of Waterloo, but Josh oversees
 - Andrea is in charge of budget, everything except for maintenance for staff, barn rentals coordination & weddings & caterers
- School groups come spring and fall
 - Too much ice to remove, buildings aren't heated
 - But do other programs not just school groups
- Morris Greenway Project grant
- Could connect railroad trail (as rail trail) to Sussex Branch – but needs a bridge to cross the river
 - Old railroad right of way isn't active but have railroad closeby
- Morris Canal, Lenape Village (most popular field trip site in NJ, most likely)
- What would be a good slogan for Byram? Township of Lakes that outsiders cannot use
- Freedom Lone Star Park – research
- Andrea is also fire warden for Waterloo

Next Steps:

Who	What
GT	Send the survey to Andrea
GT	Request maps and brochure from Andrea
GT	Reach out to Rebecca



**Byram Parks and Recreation Plan (PRP)
November 18th, 2019 Public Meeting**

- Total Responses: 1,068
- Completion Rate: 74%
- Average Time Spent: 10 minutes
- Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-FTBJSBXNV/>
- Closing Date: Thursday, August 15th

Task	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20
Open Space & Recreation Plan																
Meet with Staff																
Develop/Deploy Survey																
Research																
Public Meetings																
Individual/Group Meetings																
Field Work																
Preliminary Mapping																
Final Mapping																
Draft Plan																
Final Plan																
Present Plan to Township Council																
Trails Plan Element																
Trail Specific Meetings																
Field Work																
Drone Flight																
Mapping																
Trail Blitz Day																
Trails Management System																
Incorporate into Open Space and Recreation Plan																
Asset Management Plan																
Meet with Mayor & Staff																
Assessment of Current Status																
Consult with Forester																
Field Work																
Prepare Detailed Recommendations																
Incorporate into Open Space and Recreation Plan																
Economic Development Plan																
Meet with Mayor and Staff																
Research																
Public Outreach																
Public Meeting																
Develop Branding																
Develop Promotional Video																
Establish Social Media																
Design Promotional Materials																
Present to Mayor and Council																
Key																
Scheduled																
Completed																

Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	May 14th, 2019
Participants:	Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino, Frank Pinto, Peter Dolan, Tom Hennigan, Jeremy Apgar, Joshua Osowski, Melanie Mason
Subject:	Trails Meeting: JORBA, DEP, NJ Conservation Foundation, NYNJ Trail Conference

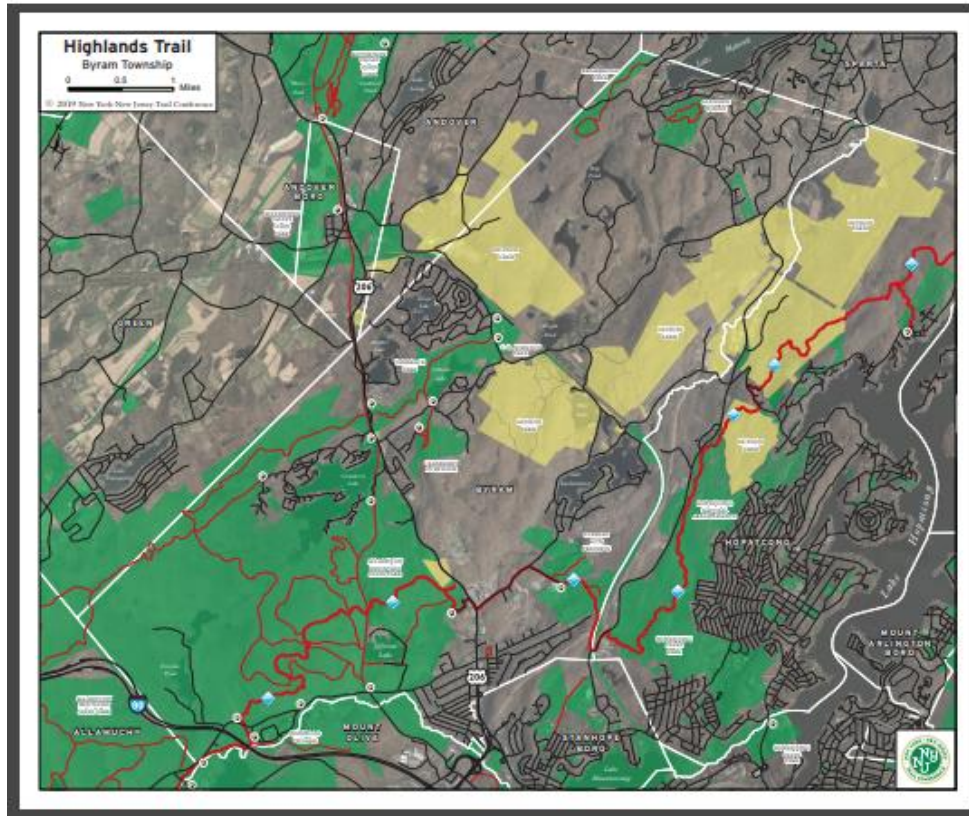
Discussion:

- Consider having Byram stakeholders engage with trail labs event (2 days in Arkansas) – ecotourism development
- Introducing people to contiguous Highlands trail as alternative to AT
 - Missing overnight sites, hotels, air b&b's – Joshua says can put more camp sites on state owned land
 - Application process to become AT communities (only one level of certification for a community – look at model (AT conservancy – partnership committee meetings happen biannually)
 - 125 miles of highlands trails in NJ vs. 75 of AT in NJ
 - AT often too congested, also too challenging for most people to take 4 months off to through hike
- Sussex County Trail Partnership, Chamber of Commerce – contact
 - 70-80 miles of rail trail in Andover/Sussex Branch region
 - E-bikes
- Josh says within a few years for all NJ state parks to be connected to trails
 - Waving Willy Trail – not official park trail
 - Boy Scouts Property
 - Have own trails not necessarily accounted for by DEP/ NYNJTC
 - Have connectors to other trails
 - Hudson Farms property easement would allow connections – speak to Land Conservancy about Hudson Farms
 - Kellogg owns most of the land between Hudson Farms and Lubbers Run and Cranberry Overlook
 - NYNJTC wants to eliminate as much road walk as possible and keep people on the trails to connect to others
 - Three relatively minor acquisitions that are needed to make Byram trail network contiguous
- Downtown connection –
 - shoprite, quickcheck, salt, McDonalds, liquor store, Chinese buffet (“mecca for through hikers on AT”)
 - Antique store in Andover becoming bike shop
- Panther Lake overnight stays and camping equipment – right next to Tamarack Park
 - Lots of RV / camper spots
- Crossing 206 safely

- Work with Dot for pedestrian crossing
- Traffic light south at bottom of hill
- Remediation fund (natural resource damage claim) because public will most likely disagree with public funding for this crossing
- In need of parking areas
 - Find more entrance points into trail network as possible so not all using same lot
 - Lot of parking at Waterloo Village
- Allamuchy Mountain trails
 - No nice loops
 - Other trails not accounted for on map – usually Boy Scout trails
 - Lots of mountain biking events in Allamuchy – races, camp outs, etc.
- Concert field – 9 events this year
 - 3 concerts, country fair, bone frog obstacle challenge, food truck events, yoga festival
 - 2 events last year
 - Limited parking: between 5,000-7,000 cars
 - Try to bus folks from trade zone to events to reduce cars in lot
- NJCF easements through private parcels in Byram – Josh has map of proposed trails through these properties (Talk to Sandy at NJCF)
 - Ben’s concern is that existing trails don’t necessarily lead anywhere and that blazing color coordination is lacking
- Trails networks of interest, inventory / assessment of assets, connectors and loops, recommendations
- Bike optimization opportunities
 - Santos, Florida quarry multi use trail example
 - After bike food and beer, but something more upscale than McDonalds
 - Bathrooms, changing stations
 - Kids mountain biking & family biking growing in the state
- Garden state wine grower’s association Pass books
 - Flagstaff Ale Trail
 - Replicate this idea for families to track miles hiked within a certain area?
 - Trail Forks badges (who visited trail most or biked it fastest)
 - Look to gamify hiking apps (king of mountain or mayor of trail)
- Have not been able to measure how trail of the week advertisement on NYNJTC affects trail traffic on those trails
 - Sensors and cameras are options but doubtful that they’ll survive
 - No volunteers want to give up hiking time to count folks
- Trail Forks – JORBA uses for usage stats
 - Search by trail
 - Run by Pink Bikes
 - Ride Starts hotspot tool allows you to determine where most frequent start spots are for trails
- Opportunities at Allamuchy to make it more attractive for hikers, since it is dominated mostly by bikers
 - Trail that preserves multi-use capacity
 - Opportunities for climbers there as well
- Closest train station is Mount Olive
 - Need more train stations to connect people to eco destination areas
 - Andover trail station delayed openings

- Improving boat launches as well
 - Looking for Kayak launch at Johnson Lake
- Two loops overlapping in Byram with launches
 - Allow split activities (hiking, biking) and then reconvene at the same point that can be boat launch, food, booze, camp site, etc.
- Not all hikers are mountain bikers but almost all mountain bikers are hikers
 - Trail runners like rough trails
- Fostering a sense of community in the township and the county
 - County is losing population
 - Working to attract families from the cities
 - Byram residents often don't recognize themselves as Byram residents, but rather parts of their lake communities
 - Kittatinny
 - Wednesday Walkers: has about 100 people – socialize, exercise
 - Josh says that programming is key – developing programs and clubs that attract regular visitors
 - One of most popular state parks
- NYNJTC has chainsaws, JORBA Marc has chainsaw – can lessen burden on DPW employees in Byram
- Sussex's Direct Marketing Organization (DMO) that can help advertise this regional hiking network in Byram
- Recreational Trails Program – inventory of highlands trail
 - Inventory, assessment, photographs, GPS
 - Could put crew together to inventory all of Byram trails (3-4 conservation corps members to hike through these trails)

<https://lakehopatcongfoundation.org/what-we-do/recreation/trails/>



Next Steps:

Who	What
	Research Economic value of residential properties near eco-tourism destinations
	Speak with Randy Solomon about adding trail/ eco-tourism points
	Speak with Land Conservancy about Hudson Farms property
	Speak with Sussex County Trail Partnership
	Speak with the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce
	Speak with Sandy at NJCF about Hudson Farms easements
	Get Josh's map of proposed trails
	Research Santos, Florida quarry multi use trail case study
	Use Trail Forks and Ride Starts for usage stats
	Research Sussex County Direct Marketing Organization (DMO) and contact

Byram PRP Councilman Scott Olson Interview 7/30/19

Scott Olson, Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto, Genevieve Tarino

- Facilities are fine, don't think there's excessive space or a lack
 - Lack of indoor recreational facilities but doesn't know if there are programs to fill that right now
- C.O. Johnson
 - Field House & bathroom facilities need help
 - Skate park at C.O. Johnson is not utilized
- Neil Gylling
 - Bathrooms were approved to be concession stand
- Regional and local trails need to be marketed
 - Private-public partnership between facilities along the Highlands Trail (bed & breakfasts, restaurants, bars, equipment shops)
 - Bring someone from the county to the trail
 - Lot of antigovernment sentiment in town, need to convince them that eco-tourism is a legitimate form of economic development
- Waterloo Village concert series is returning
 - Perhaps hire a shuttle that goes from shows to Byram town center
- Highlands Trail
 - Ask for assistance from Highlands Council – but Scott says that Byram is end of the line so might not be a priority for them (Andover and Green opted out of the program)
- Mayor is developing geocaches around town
 - Some might be on NJCF land which they don't have permission from
 - Cannot geocache on federal property
- JORBA drained a vernal pool so they wouldn't have to reroute a trail
 - Building more trails but requires more maintenance that the township cannot manage
 - No maps, destination, end point
 - Need trails to connect to larger trail network or town destinations
- B&B on corner of Tamarack and Roseville
 - Owners don't want to be involved with the town
 - Scott sees it as the perfect spot for cross-country skiing, hiking, mountain biking
- Need fact-based argument about cost of trails and parks
 - Lots of residents resent paying taxes to maintain them, though the Open Space tax isn't costing that much
 - Most of this work is done by volunteers
 - No budget line item for trail maintenance
- Need a protocol for trail and parks maintenance

- Parks and recreation director could recruit volunteers for parks and trails, direct them to places that need work
- Unlikely that the open space committee have the capacity to do this
- Establish non-profit funded by township? Friends of Byram Parks
- Issues with Open Space & recreation committees continuity and member retention – thinks recreation committee should walk these trails frequently
- Set aside budget for recreation and improvements, acquisitions
 - Doesn't think that open space fund was intended for mowing grass, etc.
- New parcel acquisitions
 - Thinks a majority would be in favor, though there is a small vocal minority that will argue there is enough open space
 - Wants a permanently preserved greenway in some places
 - Doesn't foresee any major development in town so should instead work on preserving open space
 - Put community garden or pickleball court on those spaces
- Thinks low-maintenance grass fields are healthy for kids, environment, town as a whole – less potential for injuries or health issues than a large, imposing facilities or AstroTurf
- Need better field scheduling and accommodations
 - If going to add lights to one field, should add them to all
 - Need better coordination of field usage
- Doesn't know where they'd put a dog park, as most fields are already in use
- Come up with a management plan for each facility so that teams can't defer responsibility

Byram Historical Society 6/20/19

Frank Xavier Gonzalez, Frank Pinto, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino

- Sussex Branch Trail – next level of mule train route (small narrow bands for gauge off of main)
 - Becomes obvious around Cranberry Lake
 - Erie Lackawanna
 - Mule train probably went through or by Tamarack Park
- Waterloo quarry – granite
- Geological and historical landmarks
- Original settlers
 - Beatrice Johnson- Olympic cross-country skier then came to America; involved in schools, set up St. Joseph Church
 - Land was not valuable for farming and not valuable at all after natural resources were extracted (limestone/limecrest, iron, granite)
 - Surrounding towns split off of Byram
- ** historical landmark list and description on their website
 - four types of landmark markers
 - sites registered with State Historic Preservation Office on list
 - county has preservation list as well
- Musconetcong River was not navigable, used canals to transport goods
- Historic Society: 2-3 members
 - Trying to digitize everything
 - Put in air conditioner in School House (used to be across from Lake Lackawana, closed in 1925 then repurposed as a Episcopal church and then preserved and moved in 1986)
- Frank is trustee of Sussex County Historical Society
- Town of Byram – near Waterloo; Lockwood; Stanhope; Waterloo Village; Roseville; Columbia
 - Boyscout camp: used to be manufacturing and mines (lots of mercury in lake)
 - Andover Iron Works
 - Columbia was one of the first places that the Byrams got properties
- Train station at Cranberry Lake, White Hall
- Waterloo
 - Incline plane- engineering feat
- East-West Jersey Line (Carteret?) close by
- What we can do
 - Put up notices/ banners/ signs of historical landmarks
 - Don't have a lot of quality restaurants anymore (used to when Byram was a summer destination town)
 - Trails should lead to Waterloo Village easily – Andrea has a grant for the trail
- Will get us pictures

- Colby- large land owner who planned out Forest Lakes but lost too much in stock market
- Then Casperson came in and executed some of Colby's plans

Project:	Byram PRP
Date:	June 13th, 2019
Participants:	Frank Pinto, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino, Donna Fett
Subject:	Byram Township Environmental Commission Secretary

Discussion:

- Reviews planning board applications
- Trail clean ups twice a year
- Byram Day
 - Give trails maps out
 - Partner with EC from neighboring towns – Netcong, Lenape Valley HS Go Green (faculty advisor) arboretum, boy scouts in town (clean ups)
- Blazing has been an issue – Ron Far is responsible but probably shifting to EC
 - Briar Ridge South complaints – re-blazing
 - Ron uses paint, EC uses plastic diamonds – they have diamonds remaining
- Trail maintenance
 - Assign EC member to each trail to update maps, maintenance – don't upkeep
 - Light trail maintenances, no rerouting, no power tools – defer to DPW
 - No set schedule
- Hear that trails aren't being used
 - Parking isn't great at Briar Ridge
- Hoping to do trail cleanup and guided hike for national trail day – didn't make it this year but will try for next
- Trying to interact more with Open Space and Recreation
- DPW focuses more on parks than trails but will work on bulk removal, trailhead markers
- Boy scouts interested in working on them, girl scouts not very interested, high school
- No budget for trails specifically, \$2600 for EC – usually for other projects
 - Some of Ron's stewardship money is for trail blazing
 - Trailhead signs are too small
- Events are advertised on township website and social media
- Hudson Farms charity hike – interested in that
- Want to advertise historical landmarks along trails
 - **Donna has a list, can share with us**
 - Geology, history, geocaching (make map of geocaches in Byram, include in report)

Next Steps:

Who	What
GT	Get list of historical landmarks from Donna

Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	July 1 st , 2019
Participants:	Frank Pinto, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino, Brian McNeilly
Subject:	Stanhope Administrator

Discussion:

- No recreational facilities or sports fields
 - 2 playgrounds, basketball courts
 - Lakeland Little League owns baseball fields by the High School
 - Netcong, Stanhope, Hopatcong, and some Byram
- Some open space and pasture parks
- Have recreation commission
 - Focused on event celebrations – Easter egg hunt, Christmas tree lighting, Halloween parade, family fun day
 - Lakeland Little League gets stipend reimbursement
- K-8 school has less than 300 kids
- Day camp now combined with other towns
 - Focused on the schools, location switched
 - Byram, Stanhope, or Netcong
 - Thinks there’s an appetite for a day camp, doesn’t think there’s a location preference for the towns
- No recreational director
- Stanhope owns its own fields, as does the high school
- Little league has 3.5 baseball fields
- No adult programs out of the recreation commission except senior citizen club who receive a stipend from the town, the rest is funded by the members
 - Reflects the demographics of the town
- Soccer teams used to use school fields but unsure now
- Lacrosse, Little League, Soft Ball in Byram
- Train doesn’t run on the weekends
 - Whistling Swan Inn used to provide a van to pick people from the city from the train station

Next Steps:

Who	What

Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	May 3 rd , 2019
Participants:	Mike Ortega, Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto, Genevieve Tarino, Sierda, Nina, Anjali, Kaige
Subject:	Meeting with Mike Ortega, DPW

Discussion:

- Mowing – upgrades
 - Fields at schools
 - 4 mowers
 - Needs more man power
 - Equipment can probably last for 15 more years
 - 72” Scag Zero turns
- Clay, seed, fertilizer, top soil
- Starting salary is \$30k, hard to recruit
 - Time is biggest issue
 - Hire 2 summer kids – could use more
 - 12 guys for snow for 12 snow routes
 - Would like 1 or 2 more full time positions, dependent on PRP and its implementation; ideal to have two people devoted to just parks maintenance
- Field resting: unable to because seasons keep extending for football and soccer
 - Football: August 1 until after Thanksgiving
 - Soccer: play until there’s snow
- Mohawk parking lot is being redone – worst condition
 - Guard rails – maintenance
- Field closings
 - Text everyone
 - Judgement call – staff checks the field
- Irrigation – water wheel
 - Field 8 needs drainage, has wrong type of soil
 - Issues at Mohawk as well
- Parks maintained by three guys every day in the summer
- 6 pump stations
 - Schools
 - Municipal Building
 - Two on 206
- Trails
 - Cut 200 trees – Ron marks and Mike cuts
 - Ron Furr- communication issues
 - No gator for trail maintenance
 - Only has John Deere tractor with bucket and backhoe
 - Environmental commission is supposed to promote trails but don’t communicate needs for trail maintenance
 - Salt Shakers like rugged trails but most others want manicured, mulched trails

- Has quotes for stair repairs at C.O. Johnson
- Tennis players probably will resist pickle ball lines drawn on courts
- Dog Park
 - Mike does not want – issues with waste and safety
 - Residents want park
 - If have dog park, keep far away from other parks – waste, arguments
- No issues with garbage and recycling, other than bears at Neil Gylling
- Issues at parks
 - Drug deals
 - Getting people to leave by dusk
- Wants new equipment before Byram decides to pursue GbD’s recommendations
- Mike doesn’t think that the town needs a new full-time recreation director, but someone part time to help
- Tamarack park
 - People want lights but trailer park residents will resist
 - People bbq on soccer field
 - Drug deals

Next Steps:

Who	What
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Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	June 27 th , 2019
Participants:	Ben Spinelli, Dave Kraus, Genevieve Tarino
Subject:	Lenape Valley Patriots Football

Discussion:

- Average from 20-50 kids but enrollment is declining
- Includes Stanhope, Netcong, and Byram
- Use C.O. Johnson Park for practice – field 8
 - Try to use tiny field behind skatepark when field 8 is too wet
 - Not large enough for games (less than 100-yards)
 - Can't make the field 100-yards because of electrical box (too expensive to move)
- High school field is overutilized and difficult to access at times
 - need to play on 100-yard field according to NCYFL league but C.O. Johnson doesn't have this so much play at high school for games
 - Pay for light and custodial fees – custodial fee for opening and closing facility
 - Need to pay for referees
 - Usually about \$3k a season -not cost effective
 - Challenging to coordinate field use and the league is low priority so get kicked off if high school has other events
 - Cannot do central conference games out there
- Most of their games are away because don't have consistent access to a field
- Field house is “an embarrassment to the town”
 - Flooring is generally ripped up
 - Bathrooms are closed
 - No temperature controls
 - Football has two storage rooms downstairs – but not temperature controlled so equipment gets moldy and water leaks from upstairs, very bad smell
- Used Indian Field for short period of time ~4-5 years ago
 - 100-yard field but no lighting (field, parking lot)
 - Parking lot is unfinished
 - Put up temporary lights (\$10k) but couldn't use those for games, just practices
 - Run down facility, no running water
 - Lacrosse used to use Indian field but are no longer allowed to – might be issues with lacrosse league that wants to start a fall league
- Needs
 - a new 100-yard field with proper lighting
 - improvements to field house – not just for football program

Next Steps:

Who	What
GT	Follow up with Dave about enrollment numbers

Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	July 30 th , 2019
Participants:	Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino, Scott Olson, Frank Pinto
Subject:	Byram PRP Councilman Scott Olson Interview

Discussion:

- Facilities are fine, don't think there's excessive space or a lack
 - Lack of indoor recreational facilities but doesn't know if there are programs to fill that right now
- C.O. Johnson
 - Field House & bathroom facilities need help
 - Skate park at C.O. Johnson is not utilized
- Neil Gylling
 - Bathrooms were approved to be concession stand
- Regional and local trails need to be marketed
 - Private-public partnership between facilities along the Highlands Trail (bed & breakfasts, restaurants, bars, equipment shops)
 - Bring someone from the county to the trail
 - Lot of antigovernment sentiment in town, need to convince them that eco-tourism is a legitimate form of economic development
- Waterloo Village concert series is returning
 - Perhaps hire a shuttle that goes from shows to Byram town center
- Highlands Trail
 - Ask for assistance from Highlands Council – but Scott says that Byram is end of the line so might not be a priority for them (Andover and Green opted out of the program)
- Mayor is developing geocaches around town
 - Some might be on NJCF land which they don't have permission from
 - Cannot geocache on federal property
- JORBA drained a vernal pool so they wouldn't have to reroute a trail
 - Building more trails but requires more maintenance that the township cannot manage
 - No maps, destination, end point
 - Need trails to connect to larger trail network or town destinations
- B&B on corner of Tamarack and Roseville
 - Owners don't want to be involved with the town
 - Scott sees it as the perfect spot for cross-country skiing, hiking, mountain biking
- Need fact-based argument about cost of trails and parks
 - Lots of residents resent paying taxes to maintain them, though the Open Space tax isn't costing that much
 - Most of this work is done by volunteers
 - No budget line item for trail maintenance

- Need a protocol for trail and parks maintenance
 - Parks and recreation director could recruit volunteers for parks and trails, direct them to places that need work
 - Unlikely that the open space committee have the capacity to do this
 - Establish non-profit funded by township? Friends of Byram Parks
 - Issues with Open Space & recreation committees continuity and member retention – thinks recreation committee should walk these trails frequently
- Set aside budget for recreation and improvements, acquisitions
 - Doesn't think that open space fund was intended for mowing grass, etc.
- New parcel acquisitions
 - Thinks a majority would be in favor, though there is a small vocal minority that will argue there is enough open space
 - Wants a permanently preserved greenway in some places
 - Doesn't foresee any major development in town so should instead work on preserving open space
 - Put community garden or pickleball court on those spaces
- Thinks low-maintenance grass fields are healthy for kids, environment, town as a whole – less potential for injuries or health issues than a large, imposing facilities or Astroturf
- Need better field scheduling and accommodations
 - If going to add lights to one field, should add them to all
 - Need better coordination of field usage
- Doesn't know where they'd put a dog park, as most fields are already in use
- Come up with a management plan for each facility so that teams can't defer responsibility

**Byram Township Parks and Recreation Plan (PRP)
Recreation Stakeholder Meeting Notes**

Who: Frank Pinto, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino, Joe Sabatini, Alex Rubenstein,
Members of the Public
Date: Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 at 7:00 PM
How: Public Meeting at Recreation, Administration Building
Interviewer: Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto
Contact: Genevieve Tarino gtarino@gbdtoday.com or 732-253-7717

Notes: PUBLIC COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION

What kind of facilities do you want to see?

- **Mary:** handicapped friendly park – parks geared toward handicapped children
 - Facilities to accommodate senior citizens
 - Mary used to do the trails but currently having difficulty using it
 - Something for active adults to do – like the youth organizations (like volleyball for older adults)
 - In-Crest Road trail
 - Used to go with group of 6-10 people
 - Very rocky around Salt trail
 - Sussex Branch Trail: went through Salt, connected to Waterloo
 - Does Hudson Farm Trail
 - Horseshoe Lake in Roxbury is a good example
- **Front left lady:** feasible to have
 - C.O. Johnson Park is “really strenuous” for mothers with strollers from the parking lots
 - Parks are not yet very accessible for those with handicaps or are older
 - Land is unstable/ unleveled
- **Deena:** formerly on recreation committee
 - Said that the town needed master plan
 - Works in Parks in Rec for county
 - ADA coordinator, rec therapy
 - Parks do not meet ADA code and needs a plan to comply with federal policy
 - Have to have accessible routes of travel to ball fields, bleachers, to whatever
- **Mary**
 - C.O. Johnson park trail isn't level, very challenging
 - Need better paths for handicapped and mothers with strollers
 - Could they use the lot by CVS for parking?
- **Joann Smith:** most people in town say that we have enough rec facilities and open space and trails
 - Think main thing is the maintenance of those assets; town should focus on this
 - Want to use some of open space money to maintain facilities- CO Johnson field house bathroom, tennis course, etc.
 - Seniors: pickleball (people chalk off courts at CO Johnson but should make them official)
 - Start spending open space money on maintaining what we have
 - Thinks that they taxpayers are tapped out

- CO Johnson tennis courts much better than the ones near police building
- **Deena:** facilities are maintained poorly and “look like crap”
 - CO Johnson was the jewel of Byram but now is an embarrassment
 - Bathrooms, quality of area, walking areas, football field
 - Wants football field, bathroom center that is clean, the hut to sell things out of
 - Need to have a maintenance plan in addition to a master plan
- **Front left lady:**
 - Town had robust recreation department when she moved here 12 years ago
 - Town offers nothing for families with young children
 - There used to be a summer day camp for children but now there is nothing
 - Used to have dog training company, swim lessons at Panther Lake
 - Now nothing is going on to promote unity in the community
- **Joann:** don’t have rec department now
- **Front left lady:** there’s no “blood” to offer
 - Goes to Riverside Park or CO Johnson but can’t find other people there so go to other towns
 - So, goes to Mt Olive (Turkey Brook Park) instead for parks: safe /clean/ updated playground, local sponsors often offer playground equipment
 - Lives in Cranberry Lake

If to partner with one of the lakes for programs, would that be sufficient? Does it have to be by the rec department?

- Consensus: Ok as long as it’s in the town
- **Scott:** on rec committee (not Scott Olson)
 - Open Space Tax: (Ray Bonker) have spent most of money on acquisition of land but in last 5-6 years been focusing on maintenance of land; using this plan to expand our narrow open space view about land into the active recreational spaces into the parks = \$110,000 every year
 - Have \$400,000 right now in “Dry powder” for nothing in particular, trying to use for active open space plans/ recreation plans/ activities; lot of this money from state, county, nonprofit (about \$29 per household per year for open space)
- **Joe Sabatini:** Open Space Tax lately has been supporting Tamarack Park
- **Nancy:** who’s Tamarack available to? (Joe: anyone)
 - For football and lacrosse, pay to use turf elsewhere (Indian field); money out of league to play, but if could use Byram
 - Indian field can accommodate them better: have more fields for boys and girls
 - 100-yard football field and additional field that leagues use
 - if had 2 or more 100-yard fields, would satisfy needs
 - Field 8 at CO Johnson has flooding issue – Nancy had issue with lacrosse over there → field 8 could be prime place for turf field and lighting (so don’t have weather issues)
 - Need lights at fields – safety issue
- Will speak to Stanhope and Netcong about allowing Byram to use fields without fee
- **Scott** (rec committee)
 - Turkey brook has dog park – need one in town
 - Older age soccer – go out of town
 - No program that keeps children playing sports into high school (7th, 8th grade)
 - Upgraded field house and bathrooms
 - Pavilion / place for people to gather (perhaps at Tamarack?)
 - Walking track should be made
 - Turf
 - Need better parking at Mohawk Ridge (pavement is beat up), needs bathroom that isn’t a port-a-john

Are there indoor facilities? If had access to one, what sorts of activities would you want to see?

- **Deena:** community center
- **Front lady**
 - Use Mount Olive as an example- have community events every weekend, great facilities
- **Don:**
 - Mt. Olive Rec is totally self-sufficient, don't use tax \$\$
 - Don is also in Recreation
- **Deena:** paved trail would be easiest and most accessible
 - Existing trails are noncompliant with ADA; only have to really be compliant if use funds from federal government
 - Some senior citizens might just want paved parks paths, some want more accessible trails in the woods
- **Brian**
 - Was from Randolph
 - Parks and trails are wonderful for that community
 - Loved to take trails to different parks after schools
 - Understands large costs
 - Maisel Ave in Springfield: walking path with exercise stations
 - Live in Cranberry Lake
 - Take mountain bikes on Sussex Branch Hill
- **Joann**
 - Lives in Lake Lackawanna – beautiful lake and trail by golf course
 - Swim teams at 3 lake communities
 - Challenge to draw everyone in town together
 - Lake Lackawanna has invited other people from town to join swim team, but Forest Lakes is closed
 - Each community has activities and club houses etc.
- **Mary**
 - Mansfield has nice path but afraid of bear, kids go with the quads (someone almost hit her with bike); doesn't feel safe
- **Don:**
 - Disadvantage of Sussex County is no real county park system (only one county park)
 - No chance for connectivity for park to park like Randolph did
 - Used to work in Denville: had Hub lakes league
 - Every night had different event (swimming, darts, horseshoe leagues, basketball)
 - Leagues not run by township
 - Denville had a swim program after bought Cooks Pond; program later where you could join a lake if not part of lake community
- **Harvey-** Forest Lakes
 - Thinks lot of Byram swim teams are short on children
- **Joann:** population of young people is going down
- **Scott (rec)-** Forest West
 - Know kids who want to participate in lake activities but don't feel invited to join
 - Wants a program that invite non-lake communities to join in
- Lake Mohawk Pool in Sparta: pricey but accessible to those who are not in lake communities
- **Lady in Front**
 - Use Short hills Landing membership instead of Cranberry lakes because it is too expensive
 - What happened to recreation department? Son had learned how to ride bike in THIS parking lot. Wants to see more
- End of 2017 council decided not to replace Rec Director, have part-time replacement who is limited in scope
- Netcong and Hopatcong willing to participate in activities in Byram but very low participation so had to cancel in the past
- Rec Director used to do movie nights, concerts through Municipal Alliance

- Tried lot of partnership with organizations in town: karate studio on 206 and tried to do something but no one came
- **Don**
 - “Recreation is not a cost but an investment in your community”
 - people pay taxes and want something in return other than EMS, Fire, Police, etc.
- **Lady in Front**
 - Went from something to nothing – noticeable in last few years
 - Everyone is so accustomed to leaving town for everything
- **Scott (rec)**
 - In last 10 years or so, things have declined
- **Matt (open space committee)**
 - Grew up in town and moved back with family
 - Rec committee has been almost nonexistent; at least for last few years, has been in flux
 - Thinks that rec director cannot be only one driving this; has to be committee, sports organizations, whole community working together – lots of drive from volunteers
- **Mary:** sees lack of communication about rec programs
 - When kids went to school, had handouts
 - Perhaps broadcast activities through email blast to community and surrounding communities
- **Scott (rec):** utilize social media more advanced than they currently do
 - Too many legal issues about creating a Facebook for Rec and Open Space
 - Want centralized hub for information – current and comprehensive
 - In budget plan this year, public information officer for management of township website, social media websites, nxeel service
 - Why no rec coordinator? Alex says because of money
- **Scott (open space)**
 - Camp Lennapee: was 60% out of town residents (Stanhope and Netcong) and those towns pulled out; Netcong is reinvesting in program to recreate camp
- **Don**
 - Netcong was going to farm out camp program to someone else, but they pulled out
- **Man in back right**
 - Are state parks being considered? Yes.
 - Lot of private camps that they can partner with: Tomahawk Lake, Wild West City, Panther Lake, etc.
 - Using school facilities
- Hudson Farms becoming available to public – huge asset to town in terms of public lands connectivity
- Lot of restrictions in town: wetlands, Highlands land, etc.
 - Highlands Council Regulations exempts school fields from regulations
- **Matt:**
 - Always an opportunity for booster clubs (utilizing public-private partnerships)
 - Are we leveraging opportunity to raise capital outside of tax dollars to reinvest in community?
- **Deena**
 - Can establish park foundation and friends’ groups – filter the money and have equity amongst groups and constituents
 - National Recreation Parks Foundation- program to address these issues
 - Parks-RX: doctors are prescribing parks and rec in health plans – linking parks to database system to show patients where to go and what to do; all towns being asked to do this
 - Town will have to hire someone to manage and enter this data
- **Scott (rec)**
 - Hospitals like to fund athletic, recreation activities/ facilities (RWJ, J&J, Thor Labs, etc.)
- RWJ Health Communities as preventative healthcare;
- **Mary**
 - Any way to fundraise for these activities? Flea market, farmers markets
- **Scott (rec)**

- Byram and Andover make really great partners because similar communities
- Need Rec Coordinator for the town
- **Deena**
 - Very few towns are successful in recreation with a volunteer rec coordinator – at a minimum, need a qualified full-time employee
 - Suggests everyone comes to council meeting – budget has been introduced but not finalized for 2019
- **Man in back right**
 - First priority is maintaining what we already have
 - DPW and volunteers pick up a lot of slack

What are the specific maintenance issues?

- Eagle Scout project will rehabilitate existing trail behind the school
 - School trail, not a town trail
- **Woman in front left:** has seen a lot of businesses close on 206 and in the area, interested in economic development
 - See lots of interest in exploring nature in a safe way
- **Deena**
 - Wants picnic areas updated: they're ugly and insufficient
 - CO Johnson picnic areas (need proper paving, better tables)
- Dog park, pickle ball, Frisbee golf, bring back concerts (were patronized by everyone in northern new jersey), wine festival at Waterloo Village because now state land and cannot have alcohol on that land
 - Trying to renovate concert lands – food truck events, boy scout camp
 - Using state lands: Expensive because need state police, local police – need help coordinating these activities because too many contacts on state level to try to juggle
 - Could do tough mudder, frogger, extreme sports
- **Deena:** have we looked at neighboring rec plans to see opportunities for collaboration?
- **Scott Olson**
 - Thinks trail at CO Johnson is close to being senior friendly
 - But for physical prescription, should put stations around the park – used to have these by Byram Schools but no one used them and went into disrepair and were dismantled
- Byram Senior Citizen Group: meet at this building every other Thursday – get \$9000 a year from the town and they form their own programs/ activities

Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	July 30 th , 2019
Participants:	Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino, David Gray, Frank Pinto
Subject:	Byram PRP Councilman David Gray Interview

Discussion:

- Everything is better than average
- Doesn't think should put in diesel generator field lights – dangerous emissions but cheaper than electric connection for lights
 - Maybe put lights in at Tamarack
 - Or have teams play and practice at earlier times during the day
- Wants
 - More picnic tables: C.O. Johnson and Neil Gylling
 - Reopen field house
- Doesn't think residents use the trails often but are maintained ok
 - Brookwood trail- residents didn't want because afraid of drug use there
 - Environmental commission used to maintain the trails because no one else would
 - Cannot have volunteers using chainsaws
 - If going to build anymore trails, need community buy in (so east Brookwood situation doesn't happen again)
- Wants to see the low-hanging fruit done instead of the super ambitious projects
- Using open space funds for maintenance
- Challenging to get businesses in
 - Septic instead of sewer
 - Unreliable internet connection
- Doesn't think its realistic to expect Byram to become a mountain biking destination / eco-tourism in general that would significantly impact the economy
 - Would support zoning changes to support businesses
 - Would encourage Air B&B
 - Would love bicycle shops, outdoor gear shops, restaurants and other shops
- People with kids are not moving into Byram so much
 - It's a problem county-wide
 - Less of an issue in Byram because of cheaper real estate and boundary with Morris County
 - Schools are good with special needs children
 - Aging population
- Supportive of charging outside teams/groups to use fields
 - But would require that Byram leagues are prioritized
 - Doesn't know how much revenue this will bring in

Project:	Byram Parks and Recreation Plan
Date:	Monday November 18 th , 2019
Participants:	Byram Township Council, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino, Byram public
Subject:	PRP Updates Presentation

Council Presentation & Questions

- Harvey Roseff: Towns that engage in Byram rec programs and facilities, did we engage with them? Yes
 - Neighboring towns want to share recreational facilities and programs
 - Not anxious to contribute financially
 - Also want to keep their town identity
 - Perhaps quarterly meeting among recreational committees in each town to work out collaborations
- Harvey Roseff: Should sports leagues take on majority of financial burden for facilities updates?
 - That's a policy decision on the township's part
 - Have enrollment figures from programs, bulk from Byram – will be included in report
- Harvey Roseff: funding availability?
 - Will provide a matrix and list
 - Township contributions can be in kind or in actual money
 - Almost complete with cost/maintenance spreadsheet that projects costs
- Harvey Roseff: information about field irrigation?
 - Yes, looked at wells
 - Field conditions are generally not an issue, except for weather conditions (too much rain, too much snow)
- David Gray: what do we need to do to facilitate adult activities and how do we incorporate neighboring towns?
 - Survey and stakeholders revealed this
 - Neighboring town administrators revealed what sort of resources they'd be interested in contributing to
 - Need to know that fields are going to be used if the township puts in the funds to improve
- What are the largest policy issues? Does the plan incorporate ideas of how we can attract businesses to the township?
 - Change zoning to include bed & breakfast / other overnight stays
 - Highlands Trail marketing campaign by the state – accommodate campers and hikers (equipment stores, restaurants, campgrounds)
 - Musconetcong Trout Fishing
 - Mountain Biking
 - Businesses that support these activities?
- Scott Olson: NJTPA grant for Morris Canal done by neighboring towns – connect section through Waterloo Village to hook up to rest of trails
 - Need to connect with these folks for information sharing

- Will display the history of transportation in the areas
- Harvey Roseff: have we done privacy impact and parking studies?
 - Will be a consideration
 - Biggest issue is Waterloo Road at Sussex Branch
 - Does the Highlands permit additional parking? Yes, within restrictions of impervious coverage and low impact
 - Does the Highlands fund this? Not necessarily, but have been studying how Highlands will be a driver of economic development
- Scott Olson: Highlands does not give funds for land acquisition at this point, right?
 - Correct, they'll be funding studies at this point
- Report completion? Probably February

Public Comments

- Robert Davidson: founder of Salt Shakers, resident for over two decades
 - Have been promoting Highlands Trail for as long as they've been a group
 - This year alone, have 4 incidences of lost hikers
 - Has personally rescued people, as well as the fire department
 - Need to improve trail wayfinding, it is a huge safety concern
 - Thinks Allamuchy is one of the biggest assets to the town
- Scott Yappen
 - Questions 11: indoor recreation – needed during winter and early spring
 - Question 13: C.O. Johnson improvements – most answers were bathrooms
 - Question 18: field 8 drainage issues

Next Steps:

Who	What
BS, FP, GT	Research NJTPA grant for Morris Canal
BS, FP	Connect with Nomad about possible connections to Morris Canal trails
GT	News and Noteworthy Update? (FP, weigh in please!)